GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND:GEF Trust Fund

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region			
Country(ies):	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	GEF Project ID:[1]	10050
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01660
Other Executing Partner(s):	World Resources Institute[2]	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	36
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐		Corporate Program: SGP ☐
Name of Parent Program	N/A	Agency Fee ($)	92,396

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES[3]

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in $)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-4 Program 9	Outcome 9.2 Sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations	GEFTF	972,604	4,460,000
	Total project costs		972,604	4,460,000

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses.

Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type[4]	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information	TA	1.1 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Armenia** *Indicators: (i) Number of documented decisions on land-use made that have been*	1.1.1 Stakeholder mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Armenia 1.1.2. Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Armenia 1.1.3 Restoration Opportunity Mapping	GEFTF	283,329	864,345

[1] Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.
[2] The Word Resources Institute will execute the in country activities in collaboration with the REC Caucasus, the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
[3] When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on *GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF*.
[4] Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		influenced by the use of GFW tools and knowledge products *(ii) Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities* *(iii) Number of good practices documented on the use of GFW tools to improve women's participation in decision making*	that quantifies the area of opportunity in Armenia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested and applied 1.1.4. Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and land use planning			
		1.2 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable management of forest landscapes and support restoration, planning and implementation in **Azerbaijan** *Indicators: (i)Number of documented decisions on land-use made that have been influenced by the use of GFW tools and knowledge products* *(ii) Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities* *(iii) Number of good practices documented on the use of GFW tools to improve women's participation in decision making*	1.2.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan 1.2.2 Creation of an interactive forest portal including development of ready-to-use analyses to improve and more easily share forest information in Azerbaijan 1.2.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Azerbaijan based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied 1.2.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration planning	GEFTF	297,277	876,886
		1.3 Enable improved forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Georgia** *Indicator: (i) Number of hectares identified for potential*	1.3.1 Restoration Opportunity Map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Georgia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested and applied	GEFTF	53,074	160,869

		restoration opportunities				
2. Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions	TA	**2.1** Stakeholders in **Armenia** capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs *Indicator (i) Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools*	2.1.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project 2.1.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organizations	GEFTF	103,815	1,062,520
		2.2 Stakeholders in **Azerbaijan** capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs *Indicator (i) Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools*	2.2.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project 2.2.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organizations	GEFTF	108,465	1,070,576
		2.3 Stakeholders in **Georgia** capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs *Indicator (i) Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools*	2.3.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project 2.3.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organizations	GEFTF	38,229	184,504
			Subtotal		884,188	4,219,700
			Project Management Cost (PMC)[5]	GEFTF	88,415	240,300
			Total project costs		972,604	4,460,000

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

[5] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
Recipient Government	Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia	In-kind	1,000,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic	In-kind	1,000,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	In-kind	160,000
CSO	World Resources Institute	Grant	2,000,000
CSO	REC Caucasus	Grant	300,000
Total Co-financing			4,460,000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)[b)]	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Armenia	Biodiversity		444,111	42,190	486,301
UNEP	GEFTF	Azerbaijan	Biodiversity		461,876	43,878	505,754
UNEP	GEFTF	Georgia	Biodiversity		66,617	6,328	72,945
Total GEF Resources					**972,604**	**92,396**	**1,065,000**

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEF 6 CORE INDICATORS

Update the relevant sub-indicator values for this project using the methodologies indicated in the Core Indicator Worksheet (as used in GEF 7 Endorsement template – Annex E) and aggregating them in the table below. Progress in programming against these targets is updated at mid-term evaluation and at terminal evaluation. Achieved targets will be aggregated and reported any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCCF.

Project Core Indicators		Expected at CEO Endorsement
1	**Terrestrial protected areas** created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	0
2	**Marine protected areas** created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	0
3	Area of **land restored (**Hectares)	0
4	Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)	0
5	Area of **marine habitat under improved practices** (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	0
	Total area under improved management (Hectares)	
6	**Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated** (metric tons of CO2e)	0
7	**Number of shared water ecosystems** (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	0
8	Globally over-exploited **marine fisheries** moved to more sustainable levels (metric	0

	tons)	
9	**Reduction**, disposal/destruction, phase out, **elimination** and avoidance of **chemicals of global concern** and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)	0
10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of **POPs to air** from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	0
11	Number of **direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender** as co-benefit of GEF investment	Azerbaijan Male: 3,100 Female: 350 Armenia Male: 2,000 Female: 200 Georgia Male: 4,100 Female: 500

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided.

The area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) in Ha was determined by calculating the sum of tree cover, with data developed by University of Maryland (Hansen, 2010), in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The area (in Ha) of protected areas within the forested areas was the deducted from the sum of forested areas.

The number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment was determined by calculating the number of employees, disaggregated by gender, in the relevant ministries, departments and agencies for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

In addition, this project contributes to the fulfillment of Aichi Target 5 (loss of natural habitats including forests). Global Forest Watch will monitor and independently verify the rate of loss of natural forest habitats, and monitor trends in forest degradation and fragmentation, supporting forest conservation and law enforcement measures that reduce rates of forest loss and degradation. GFW provides an essential management tool to enhance the conservation effectiveness of existing protected areas, as well as monitor habitats of unprotected areas, including the trends of habitats hosting globally important biodiversity.

F. PROJECT TAXONOMY

Please update the table below for the taxonomic information provided at PIF stage. Use the GEF Taxonomy Worksheet provided in Annex F to find the most relevant keywords/topics/themes that best describe the project.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Transform policy and		

	regulatory environments Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries Local Communities Civil Society Type of Engagement	Non-Governmental Organization Academia Information Dissemination Partnership	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Enabling Activities Capacity Development Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
Gender Equality	Gender Mainstreaming	Beneficiaries	
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity Forests	Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)	

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF[6]

A.1. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area[7] strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Overview of changes from PIF stage

Topic	At PIF Stage	At CEO Endorsement Stage
Project Outcomes	1.2 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Azerbaijan**	1.2 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable management of forest landscapes and support restoration, planning and implementation in **Azerbaijan** **Rationale:** The word "land-use" was removed from the outcome as "land-use" has a very broad context and Azerbaijan wants to focus the project on only forested land. The language of this outcome was changed to reflect this.

[6] For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF , no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question.

[7] For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

Project Outputs	1.1.2. Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal for Armenia 1.1.3 Development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Armenia	1.1.2 Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Armenia **Rationale:** Output 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 were combined as the development of analyses and part of the creation of the portal. Because the development of analyses is included a necessary step to create the portal, the two outputs were combined to reflect that the final output is actually the portal itself.
	1.1.5. Development of a draft policy instrument necessary for making forest restoration and forest related land-use planning 1.1.6 Development of a feasibility study on restoration implementation for 1 target area	1.1.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and land use planning **Rationale:** Output 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 were combined and "feasibility study" was changed to "feasibility plan." The outputs were combined because it was determined that a simpler solution with the same outcome would be to include a feasibility plan within the policy instrument. In addition, it was determined that conducting a feasibility study was too large of a task and would not be feasible considering the current scope of the project. The wording was changed to the creation of a feasibility plan, which could then be submitted to the Ministry as advice for further study in a follow-up project.
	1.2.1 Stakeholder mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan	1.2.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan **Rationale:** The word "land-use" was removed from the output as "land-use" has a very broad context and Azerbaijan wants to focus the project on only forested land.
	1.2.2 Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal for Azerbaijan 1.2.3 Development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Azerbaijan	1.2.2 Creation of an interactive forest portal including development of ready-to-use analyses to improve and more easily share forest information in Azerbaijan **Rationale:** Output 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 were combined as the development of analyses and part of the creation of the portal. Because the development of analyses is included a necessary step to create the portal, the two outputs were combined to reflect that the final output is actually the portal itself. In addition, the word "land-

		use" was removed from the output as "land-use" has a very broad context and Azerbaijan wants to focus the project on only forested land.
	1.2.4. Development of a draft policy instrument necessary for making forest restoration and forest related land-use planning 1.2.6 Development of a feasibility study on restoration implementation for 1 target area	1.2.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and planning **Rationale:** Output 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 were combined and "feasibility study" was changed to "feasibility plan." The outputs were combined because it was determined that a simpler solution with the same outcome would be to include a feasibility plan within the policy instrument. In addition, it was determined that conducting a feasibility study was too large of a task and would not be feasible considering the current scope of the project. The wording was changed to the creation of a feasibility plan, which could then be submitted to the Ministry as advice for further study in a follow-up project. In addition, the word "land-use" was removed from the output as "land-use" has a very broad context and Azerbaijan wants to focus the project on only forested land.

1.1 THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Overview and Scope

Maintaining and expanding forest cover in the South Caucasus countries are critical aspects in supporting human livelihoods, economies, carbon storage, water management and storehouses of biodiversity. The forests of the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) lie within the Caucasus Eco-region (see Figure 1), one of the Global 200 eco-regions. Extending to about three million hectares - forests are the most important biome for biodiversity conservation in the South Caucasus, harboring many endemic and relic species of woody plants and herbs, and providing habitats for globally rare and endangered animals. In addition to their high value to wildlife conservation, the forests of the South Caucasus make an important contribution to national sustainable development goals. Forests provide sustenance and livelihoods for rural people and essential environmental services such as preventing avalanches and soil erosion and regulating the quantity and quality of water supplies. These values are threatened by unsustainable management and exploitation, which if continued will lead to irreversible loss of biodiversity and of the products and services on which many people depend. Despite these extraordinary, and in many cases, irreplaceable values, forest degradation continues. The South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, have experienced substantial levels of deforestation and degradation in the last 20 years, resulting in soil degradation, landslides and other natural hazards. Forest and land degradation present a few problems and challenges in each of the South Caucasus countries, with significant and direct impacts on rural poverty, household food security, biodiversity, resilience to extreme weather, quantities of carbon sequestered and land use values.

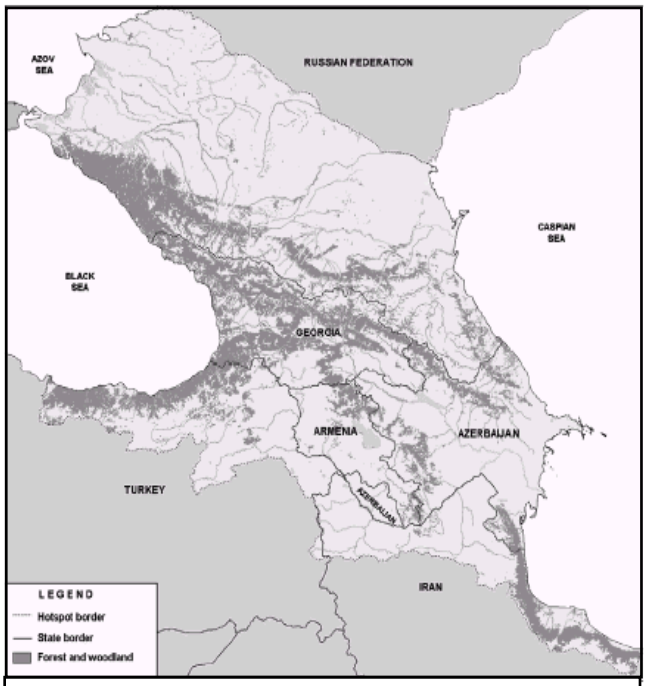


Figure 1 - *Distribution of forests in the Caucasus Eco-region* (*including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia*)[1]

Reliable up-to-date data on the extent and state of forests in the three South Caucasus countries does not exist. Inventory for most forests is mainly out of date.

Biodiversity value of the Forests of South Caucasus[8]: Most of the region's rare and endangered animal species are associated with forest ecosystems and depend on ecologically intact forest, such as most bat species, brown bear (*Ursis arctos*; LC), wild goat (Caucuses Tur, *Capra caucasica*, EN) chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*, LC), Caucasian red deer (*Curvus elaphus*, LC), European bison (*Bison bonasus*, VU), two endemic species of salamanders, and the Caucasian leopard (*Panthea pardus*, EN). Most endemic invertebrates, such as Caucasian running beetle (*Carabus caucasicus*, NE) and Beech snail (*Helix buchi*, NE), are also strictly associated with forest ecosystems. Forests provide the leaves, nuts and roots on which roe deer and wild boar feed. West- and east-Caucasian turs and the Caucasian black grouse (*Tetra mlokosiewiczi*, NE) - species that live in the sub-alpine belt - use mountain forests as wintering habitats.

[8] Ecoregion Conservation Plan for the Caucasus (2012) http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/ecp_2012.pdf

Caucasian populations of European wild cat (*Felis silvestris*, LC) and pine marten (*Martes martes*, LC) are relatively abundant and conservation of these populations is important for conservation of these species world-wide. The Colhic forests (Georgia) and Talysh forests (Azerbaijan) are examples of unique forest systems in the region that are largely isolated from other large forest massifs in Europe and Central Asia and contain most of region's endemic species, such as the Caucasian adder (*Vipera kaznakovi*, EN), Caucasian mud-diver (*Pelodytes caucasicus*, NT) and Caucasian toad (*Bufo verrucosissimus*, NT), several endemic rodents including Robert's snow vole (*Chionomys roberti*, LC), Caucasian mole (*Talpa caucasica*, LC) and Shelkownikow's water shrew (*Neomys shelkownikowi*, NE). South Caucasus forests are also rich in bird species, harboring eagle owls, seven species of woodpeckers and serving as a migration corridors and breeding grounds for a large number of bird populations.

Economy and livelihoods: Forests provide a variety of goods and services and are a source of livelihoods for thousands of rural people. In many rural areas and some towns, fuel wood is the primary source of energy for heating and cooking. Some rural households consume as much as 15 cubic meters of fuel wood annually. The region's forests are also an important source of industrial wood for domestic markets, in particular construction and furniture, and Georgia supplies substantial quantities to international markets. However, precise figures are not available because actual removals are not always recorded accurately. Non-wood forest products including nuts, berries, mushrooms and medicinal plants are important direct sources of well-being for rural people, and together with tree seeds, are important sources of income for rural economies (e.g, *Abies nordmaniana* seeds from Georgia). Forests are also used by rural people for grazing of cattle, goats, sheep and pigs. Hunting and game management provide some income to state budgets, and tourism and recreation provide income to local economies. Lastly, forests provide environmental services such as watershed protection and soil erosion prevention, which make a substantial invisible contribution to the rural and national economies of the region.

Threats to Biodiversity in the Forests of South Caucasus:

The region's forests and its associated biodiversity are threatened by unsustainable logging, unsustainable grazing and neglectful or environmentally harmful forest management practices. Careless clear-cutting of mountain beech stands has permanently damaged a significant portion of valuable beech forests. Oak forests, historically largely cleared for farmlands and pastures, have been spared mostly only in remote canyons and on relatively poor soils. Chestnut forests in the Colchic foothills and in the northwestern Caucasus have also been logged intensively. Very few lowland forests have been preserved to this day; some stands remain only in the Lenkoran and Kolkheti lowlands and in the Kura, Iori, Samur and Alazani-Agrichay river valleys, which are in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Unsustainable logging: Two main types of unsustainable logging can be distinguished based on their underlying causes and the actors involved: unsustainable logging of industrial timber for processing and sale into domestic and international markets; and unsustainable cutting of trees for fuel-wood by or for rural people who have no affordable alternative. Some unsustainable logging may often be legal, like when for example, the selection of stands for logging does not take conservation value into consideration. Impacts of unsustainable logging on conservation value include: long term change in stand structure due to over-harvesting of valuable mature trees for industrial wood; gradual opening of forest margins leading to permanent loss of forest and reduction in conservation and other environmental services; and damage to remaining trees, soil and water as a result of bad harvesting practices.

Unsustainable grazing: Grazing levels in forests around settlements are, in many instances, far above carrying capacity. Overgrazing prevents regeneration of herb, shrub and tree layers and causes permanent damage to soils. Lack of regeneration and the gradual disappearance of protective vegetation leads to soil erosion, landslides and forest habitat loss.

Neglectful/harmful forestry practices: Poorly planned and executed logging operations that use inappropriate machinery reduce the conservation value of forests by causing damage to the remaining trees, herb and shrub layers and soil. Potential environmental impacts of logging operations are not always identified and steps are often not taken to avoid or mitigate damaging impacts.

Between 1990 and 2005, Armenia lost significant part of its forest cover due to illegally harvested timber for both fuel and commercial purposes.[9] In addition, mining, a key economic activity in Armenia, is worsening forest degradation as in some instances is being carried out in forested areas. Mining is resulting in forest fragmentation, in addition to other causes such as land cultivation, logging, and infrastructure development. In Azerbaijan, forested areas cover almost 12% of the country, although in the 19th century forest cover was closer to 35%.[10] Azerbaijan is considered one of the world's most important countries for oil exploration, with most of the country rich in oil and natural gas, although pollution and contamination from oil production and transport has caused some environmental degradation and threatens the country's biodiversity. Azerbaijan is also the largest agricultural basin in the region with agricultural land covering more than half the country, although this has resulted in salinization due to substandard irrigation and drainage systems, and unsustainable levels of ground water extraction. Poor agricultural practices have also resulted in soil erosion from overstocking of livestock and ongoing deforestation for shifting land-use, which is also causing fragmentation of forests. Furthermore, forests in Azerbaijan are being fragmented due to the illegal harvesting of valuable timber species, particularly within the Talysh mountains.[11] Even though Georgia is rich in forest resources and there has been almost no change in the extent of forest coverage since 1990[12], there are notable signs of forest degradation. Core drivers of forest degradation are unsustainable logging, unsustainable grazing and neglectful or environmentally harmful forest management practices[13]. During the last decade, numerous studies were carried out for Georgia by various organizations providing significant information about the degree of forest degradation caused by weak forest governance and a high volume of illegal activities in the forestry sector. In Georgia, during the last decade, numerous studies were carried out by various organizations providing significant information about the degree of forest degradation caused by weak forest governance and a high volume of illegal activities in the forestry sector. Recent reliable data provided by the inventories conducted in Borjomi-Bakuriani and Kharagauli forest districts (around 90,000 ha) from 2014 - 2015 showed a substantial decrease of timber resources and a high level of forest degradation since 1998, resulting in emissions of up to 2 million tons of CO_2. It might be premature to draw conclusions on the state of Georgia's forests on the results obtained from two forest districts, but it is reasonable to expect results may be similar in other forest districts. Over the last two decades, illegal logging has been a problem in Georgia. According to official statistics, the volume of illegal logging was 8,262 m^3 in 2008 and increased to 20,994 m^3 in 2014. Illegal operations range from commercial extraction of highly valuable timber to fuel-wood cutting for both local and foreign markets.

For the South Caucasus countries, further degradation could cause a sharp decline in protection functions and self-restoration ability, which in the medium to long term could lead to irreversible degradation of forest ecosystems. Major natural hazards (floods, flash floods, landslides, mudflows, snow avalanches etc.) some of which may be exacerbated by forest degradation and deforestation—impact the national economies, with resulting damage to land, buildings, roads,

[9] *Armenia Forest Statistics*, Mongabay, https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/archive/Armenia.htm
[10] *Forest Dependency in Rural Azerbaijan* (2014) ENPI East FLEG. http://www.enpi-fleg.org/site/assets/files/1910/forest_dependency_azerbaijan.pdf
[11] *The Republic of Azerbaijan's Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (2014) https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/az/az-nr-05-en.pdf
[12] Environmental Performance Review - Georgia (2016) / Third Review // Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 31, ECE/CEP/177, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2016. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/ECE_CEP_177.pdf
[13] National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia for 2012 – 2016 (2012) / Chapter 7 - Forestry // Approved by the Government of Georgia - Ordinance #127 of January 24, 2012.https://www.preventionweb.net/files/28719_neap2.eng.pdf

other infrastructure, human health and the environment. In addition, unsustainable exploration of mineral resources can cause disruption and fragmentation to forest landscapes, resulting in forest degradation. The above factors are causing, or otherwise enabling, habitat destruction, deforestation, fragmentation and extensive, unregulated exploitation of fauna and flora. In fact, most natural old growth forests in the South Caucasus have been fragmented by logging, commercial plantations, agricultural lands and infrastructure, threatening the habitats of the region's rich biodiversity, isolating flora and fauna species populations, and disturbing migration routes.[14] All of these pressures are causing not only degradation of forest ecosystems in the South Caucasus, but also fragmentation of forests and consequently fragmentation of forest dependent habitats. Forest fragmentation is serious problem in Armenia mainly due to mining activities on forest lands[15], and in Georgia due to grazing and other agricultural activities[16] within forests. Extrapolating forest fragmentation trend into the future without appropriate measures will be effected in decline and disappearance of species associated with forests, decline in timber in terms of quantity and quality, specific decline of fuel wood and secondary non-wood forest products, increased risk of soil erosion, flooding, landslides, avalanches and the general increases in the magnitude of such events which will further lead to increased carbon emissions - degrading the opportunities and quality of life especially in rural areas.

Barriers

The logic of GFW is based on the fundamental conclusion that an absence of timely, widely available and accurate forest data and information are a critical barrier to enhanced forest management. The long-term solution sought by the project is to empower decision-makers in government, and civil society with technology and information to reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity. However, the following barriers are preventing this solution.

Barrier 1: Insufficient land-use management practices because of limited access to reliable up-to-date information:

Substantial data and information gaps constitute important barriers standing in the way of better management of the region's forests. Updated data does not exist for the many of the South Caucasus forests. It is difficult to reveal changes in species habitats and assess actual conditions and trends of biodiversity, so that there are no effective mechanisms for data collection, storing and analysis. Systematic collection of baseline information on forests, which is necessary for planning and decision-making on forest use, and which is essential for continuous long-term monitoring of forest change dynamics, requires significant resources and there is currently no system or platform for consolidating forest-related data and information generated within the responsible agencies or gathered by activities implemented and funded by international and multilateral donors. Practically, there is also no system for facilitating data sharing between state agencies or for enabling easy public access to forest-related information. While the existing Global Forest Watch (GFW) web based site is already useful for many purposes in the South Caucasus, barriers related to language, lack of national ownership, lack of integration of national data layers and insufficiently high resolution, make the existing site less valuable than it could be. To ensure sustainability of the efforts to improve data and information and ensure that these data are regularly updated and used in planning and decision-making, there is need to create national data portals, which would be managed and regularly updated by a responsible national agency in each South Caucasus country. Decision makers are not fully aware of role that forest restoration can play in rural development,

[14] Caucasus Biodiversity Council, *Ecoregion Conservation Plan for the Caucasus* (2012) http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/ecp_2012.pdf

[15] Strategy and National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia on Conservation, Protection, Reproduction and Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020 (2015) // Approved at the Session of the Governmentof the Republic of Armenia No.54-10 on 10 December 2015. https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/am/am-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

[16] National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia 2014 – 2020 (2014) // Approved by the Government of Georgia - Decree No.343, of 8 May, 2014 "On adoption of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2014–2020". https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

mitigation of climate change and the achievement of other important sustainable development outcomes like protection/conservation of forest biodiversity. They are not yet convinced that the anticipated benefits of restoration would outweigh the presumed costs. The lack of accurate and detailed information regarding (i) the status of the forest lands (e.g. in Georgia), (ii) the current land use and (iii) the needs and potential for improving forest management prevents the emplacing of critical "enabling conditions" to favour the spread of restoration across large areas. Due to various combinations of the above factors, successful restoration has not yet occurred at a large scale and has not had the impact it can and should have, except in case of Azerbaijan, where medium scale restoration (mainly afforestation) works have been increasing progressively since last decade.

Barrier 2: Inadequate capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions:

Lack of knowledge at all levels about modern restoration planning and implementation technologies and opportunities contributes to low levels of investment in actions that could boost the productivity of the land. Lack of knowledge can have profound effects across multiple areas, including: management of community forests; protected area management; forest carbon management and accounting, including REDD+; watershed management, and integrated land use management and planning. In addition to the shortage of qualified staff, there is need for expertise and methodologies to understand degradation and restoration opportunities and how it would increase biodiversity. There is also a lack of expertise in applying GIS and remote sensing data, such as aerial and satellite information, as a tool to support field work. Knowledge and skills in interpretation and analysis of remote sensing data are necessary not only for the staff of responsible agencies, but also for civil society organizations undertaking independent forest monitoring or other forest-related activities.

1.2) THE BASELINE SCENARIO AND ANY ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS

Government Baseline – National

The proposed regional project will build upon the preliminary steps already taken by the Project Countries towards the sustainable management of forests. The South Caucasus countries recognize the threats and barriers and are making efforts to mitigate them although the efforts tend to be fragmented and un-coordinated, both within countries. While projects exist that are addressing the threats and barriers described above, under the business-as-usual scenario, these projects are insufficient to facilitate change that allows for improved access to information to combat threats to biodiversity including better forest and land management, deforestation, and restoration opportunities. The national forestry organizations of the South Caucasus countries are not organized in the same way but there are some common challenges that have influenced how forest information systems are used to reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity. All three South Caucasus countries have shown clear drive to improve their forest management information systems by moving forward with a number of baseline activities, including their acceptance and implementation of relevant international agreements and adoption of related policies and laws, including the NEAPs, INDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs To UNCCD, FNCs of UNFCCC, and new national forest policies. All three governments are gradually increasing state funding for sustainable forest management.

In Armenia, land resources management is implemented by the Ministry of Nature Protection, which is responsible for policy development and implementation in the areas of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, and Ministry of Agriculture, which is responsible for implementing policies in agriculture, forestry and food provision. Other forest organizations working in Armenia include State Forest Monitoring Centre, State Forestry Monitoring Council, Marz Administration (Nature Resource and Agricultural Units, Program Development Units, Land Management Units). Under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forest State Monitoring Centre monitors the implementation of Armenia's Forest Management Plans. The Government will develop the new inventory of forests and forest lands between 2018 and 2019. One of the key baseline projects is GEF funded UNDP implemented *Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Mountain Landscapes of North-eastern Armenia*, which

will work on the integration of sustainable forest and land management objectives into planning and management of forest ecosystems to reduce degradation and enhance ecosystem services in two marzes covering 0.65 million hectares; and demonstrate sustainable forest management practices. It is expected that by the end of this project, at least one forest management plan protocols for mainstreaming ecosystem, climate risk mitigation and biodiversity considerations into forest management will be developed and approved by the Ministry. Various resource managers, users will be trained on sustainable forest management. During this project period, the state non-commercial organization Hayantar will carry out inventory of forests and forest lands with the state budget (1,080,200 USD). The government will also develop forest management plans with the support of GIZ. Based on the Government Decision N1232, Government will implement reforestation and afforestation activities in 15,000 ha (5000 hectares/year) in 2018-2020. Recently, the State Forest Committee was established by Decree N 182-N of 22 February 2018, where the functions of forest conservation and use are separated. In between 2018-2020, the Government will establish the Forest Service organization for coordinating the forest protection programs. The committee and the Forest Service organization will be responsible for the development of the forest management plans with the support of international organizations. Without support of this project, national forestry organizations in Armenia will continue to gather land and forest resource data from a series of sample plots in order to assess current forest resource trends without the help of a GIS-based data gathering and analysis system to provide guidance and assistance for the sustainable management of forest resources.

In Azerbaijan, The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic (MoENR) is the primary agency responsible for carrying out various measures in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources, including afforestation and restoration, in the forestry sector to increase tree cover and protect forests. All forests of country are publicly owned and managed by the state in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Code and the Law on Environmental Protection. Azerbaijani forests assigned to the first group of forests. They are transferred to the permanent use of forestry enterprises for the intended purpose for the development of forestry. Under the MoENR, the Forestry Development Department (FDD) is responsible for developing forest management and strategy and for the management of forest resources. Rules defined by the Law of Azerbaijan Republic "On Land Reform", forest and non-forest areas not covered with forest vegetation, for the purpose of their recovery, can be transferred to natural and legal persons on a contractual basis. Forest fund's land must be used mainly for maintenance and expansion (recovery, bookmark forests, etc.) of forestry. Forest fund's land is used by forest authorities and other state and non-state enterprises institutions and organizations to which they have been assigned for the implementation of their statutory activities. According to the Land Code, the Forest fund's land is used for meeting industrial and other needs of enterprises, institutions and organizations, which in accordance with legislation harvesting wood and other forest materials or carrying out other work (construction of buildings and other structures, roads, carrying out electrical lines, etc.). Forest fund's land can be leased in order to restore forests in the manner prescribed by the Forest Code of the Azerbaijan Republic.

In Azerbaijan, strengthening institutional structures and capacities of forestry sector; strengthening public awareness and stakeholders' participation for sustainable forest management; strengthening protection and climate change adaptation; development of research and education on forestry have been identified and being implemented. In addition, development of forest planning and monitoring are needed but are not implemented fully yet. The Government, through the MoENR's FDD, usually rehabilitates about 7,500 ha forest areas; does afforestation on about 2,500 ha of land; plants about 3,000 trees every year. Therefore, it is expected that the Government's rehabilitation and afforestation efforts will be completed on about 30,000 ha between 2018 and 2020. In terms of forest assessments and monitoring, the government is unable to devote adequate resources. Forest based inventory and data being used for planning and management of the country's forests, both at national and local level, will remain inconsistent, incomplete and out of date. The country will continue to do the forest inventory based on the ground surveys and aerial photo interpretation.

The GEF funded FAO implemented 'Forest Resources Assessment and Monitoring to Strengthen Forest Knowledge Framework in Azerbaijan' will be the major baseline activity in the country on forest management. The Project aims to introduce sustainable forest management into Azerbaijan in order to increase social and economic benefits from forests, to improve the quality of existing forests and to increase carbon sequestration. In between 2018-2019, the project will assist to develop a system to provide country-wide reliable, up-to-date information on forest resources, forestry related elements. The Project will demonstrate multifunctional forest management methodologies leading to carbon sequestration, improvement in forest and tree resources and their contribution to local livelihoods.

In Georgia, forests are one of the most valuable natural resources and occupy about 40% of the country's territory with significant potential in the production of wood and wood products. Forest management and forestry sector reform is a key issue of discussion. Since 2000 there have been several attempts to reorganize the forestry sector and to establish an effective institutional model with the goal of sustainable forest management, though due to the lack of a clearly defined strategy and action plan the processes could not be developed and positive results could not be achieved. The 2013 National Forest Concept for Georgia recognizes the strategic role of forests and aims at establishing a system of sustainable forest management. Main priority directions of the National Forest Concept are forest planning and restoration of degraded forests and reforestation. The Government currently implements some key initiatives to support the implementation of the Forest strategy. This process is supported through the project "Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia", implemented by FAO. The project aims to strengthen national forest sectors by facilitating a participatory, multi-stakeholder process to develop accountability systems with the participation of international and national experts. The Government continues to develop national forest inventory. The inventory will continue to provide reliable information about Georgian forests; reporting on national, regional and global level; and providing reliable data on quality & quantity of Georgian forests. The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture will continue to the implementation of forest reform on focusing the development of policy tools, modernization of forest management practices, strengthening the capacities of authorities and civil society, and enhancing evidence based policy dialogue. In between 2018-2019 with the support of the Austrian Development Cooperation, the Government will mainstream forest policies into other sectors' policies (Agriculture Strategy and Action Plan, Rural Development Plans, Climate Change Action and Mitigation Plans, Energy Policy and Strategy, Socio-Economic Development Strategy). The Ministry will continue raising awareness to advocate forest policies, and public engagement. The Government will conduct a cost benefit analysis, which will cover forest industry analysis; firewood production analysis; forest welfare function analysis; and forest carbon credit analysis.

Relevant projects for the South Caucasus: A number of projects and initiatives that have been and continue to be implemented in the South Caucasus in both regional and national levels that are relevant to the proposed GEF project.

The **GIZ's "Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus Programme - IBIS" (2015-2019)** aims to advise partners in integrated land use management based on geo-spatial data. Georgia currently implements a National Spatial Data Infrastructure, which is in line with the EU framework for geo-data management (INSPIRE). The Armenian government has also implemented IT-based systems for environmental data management like the National Forest Management Information System, which could be a stepping-stone for a more harmonized and comprehensive approach towards geo-spatial data management and policy. Azerbaijan is currently working towards the development of comprehensive geo-spatial data systems for agricultural and environmental management.

The objective of the **BMZ/KFW funded project (2015-2019) "the Transboundary Joint Secretariat for the South Caucasus"** is to maintain biodiversity in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia without negatively affecting the livelihoods of the rural population in the long term. The project supports the development of the Eco-Regional Conservation Plan (ECP) and its implementation in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Through regional cooperation in the conservation

sector, TJS III also contributes to crisis prevention and conflict mitigation in the South Caucasus. This project will also promote improved knowledge sharing and institutional capacities for sustainable forest management.

The **Implementation of the principles and practices of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the Eastern Partnership Countries** (ENI SEIS II East, 2016-2020). is funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and implemented and managed by the European Environment Agency. The overarching objective of the project is to support the further implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles and practices in the six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). The project's key partners are representatives from the national environmental and statistical authorities within the project's geographical area. The specific objective is to strengthen the regular production of environmental indicators and assessment as a contribution towards knowledge-based policy-making and good governance in the field of the environment. This will result in improved national capacity related to the provision of environmental data and information in line with national and EU environmental legislation and practices.

The aim of **Promotion of Eco-corridors Programme in the Southern Caucasus** is to introduce funding for ecologically sustainable land use in selected eco-corridors in the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and thus contribute to interlinking protected areas and enhancing their ecological stability by setting up an "Ecoregional Corridor Fund" (ECF) as an instrument for promoting sustainable land use practices in ecological corridors through contractual nature conservation. The Programme is conducted by The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Caucasus Programme Office in cooperation with KfW Development Bank.

WRI's GEF support **Global Forest Watch** project is already active in Georgia to build a Forest and Land-use Decision Support System, which is proactively engaging user groups to ensure that information is available, up-to-date, and used effectively for forest and land-use management decisions. The project will have an impact to improve decision making on land use and sustainable forest management, although it does not have a large restoration component.

- The Global Forest Watch project in Georgia currently supports projects with partner NGOs, whose work will provide additional data for the Forest and Land-use Decision Support System and illustrate the portal's impact for the project's use cases, which apply GFW data directly in the context of relevant policy and implementation issues

- Green Alternative is implementing "Development of Biodiversity Monitoring System for Assessment of Forest Protected Areas." This project is strengthening conservation efforts by further developing the National Biodiversity Monitoring System to improve protected area management. The study will better understand how much of protected areas support nature conservation and will help the monitoring, management and planning of protected areas.

- NACRES is implementing "Supporting the Integration of Sustainable Forest Management of Practices in Georgia by Provision and Analysis of Key Data Using Remote Sensing Technologies," which is identifying, classifying and mapping Georgia's key forest habitats to complete the process of establishing the Emerald Network in Georgia, supporting national obligations under the Bern Convention. In addition, the project is promoting responsible utilization of non-timber resources by identifying relevant important wildlife habitats using remote sensing and GIS to better understand the socio-economic implications of non-timber resource use.

- Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) is implementing "Promotion of New Technologies and Information Communication Tools to Enrich Forest Management Information System," which looks at forest vulnerability analysis and mapping to better understand factors relating to forest degradation, based on GFW data and CENN's Atlas of Natural Hazards and Risks in Georgia. The final map will be uploaded into the portal

as a data layer to provide new insights. This project also assesses lost forest territories by digitizing old forest stand maps (pre-2011) and comparing forest fund borders with those from present day to see where forests may have been lost and develop recommendations for corrections and create a policy dialogue.

1.3) THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO, WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

The barriers identified show that reliable information does not exist in a centralized environment and thus affects decision-makers' abilities to design reliable national strategies for forest management and restoration. In addition, lack of national capacity affects the ability to carry out and implement forest management strategies and there is often limited coordinated engagement with relevant national and international initiatives. The project's objective is to address the barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing an innovative user-friendly tool that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover by restoring forests. Access to information enables governments, communities, civil society, companies and the media to hold those responsible for forests accountable for the threats facing forests. This will be achieved through the development of innovative user-friendly tools that contain shareable and reliable up-to-date local and global information and provide on-the-fly analyses for easy reporting, decision making, monitoring, enforcement, and intervening.

The project, using technology developed by Global Forest Watch (GFW), will create an interactive forest and land-use web-based portal with local and global data, and in local languages, that will be customizable and include important ready-to-use analyses for better decision making and to more easily share information. Information will also be available on the main Global Forest Watch platform and the Resource Watch platform, which is being launched in 2018 and will pull from information across World Resources Institute's various platforms, including Global Forest Watch, to focus on how current trends in data, technology, media and human networks can inform decision-making around natural resources. In addition to creating national portals and contributing to global platforms, the project will facilitate national commitments to restoration and improved enable legal and policy conditions across sectors to enhance the roles of trees in agricultural landscapes and to restore forests in ways that support the strategies of avoided deforestation and increased connectivity of forest complexes.

The project uses technology developed by Global Forest Watch (GFW), which has already been implemented and replicated in 12 countries, including Georgia, one of the countries in this proposal. The proposed project will build on the successes and lessons learned of previous projects. Outcomes in previous examples have proven this project's theory of change with stakeholders and government partners contributing data to and utilizing the platform and has demonstrated that data transparency and information do address root causes and barriers of environmental issues in the region. While the pilots have focused on building a knowledge platform for land-use decisions and monitoring deforestation, this project will build on the previous pilots by addressing restoration research and strategy thereby not only monitoring landscapes but also improving them.

The project will aid in achieving the ambitious goals of National Action Plans (NAPs) that contribute to the 10-year strategy of the UNCCD which aims to improve the lives and ecosystems of those affected by desertification. The proposed project will also assist countries in achieving the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy to improve the effective management of the national ecological infrastructures and provide up-to-date information that makes it easier to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into development and finance planning. In addition, the project will help countries achieve the goal of Aichi CBD target 5, which states, "by 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought to close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced" by providing a platform to better visualize land-use and forested areas and monitor tree cover

loss, thereby limiting forest loss and fragmentation and also by better understanding areas of opportunity for restoration to decrease forest degradation and fragmentation. It will also contribute to target 15 which states "by 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems," by the creation of restoration opportunity maps, which will help governments make decisions on the conservation and creation of new agricultural lands, forested areas including production forests, and protected areas. This project will assist countries to sequester greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate uncertainty and achieve more sustainable forest landscape management.

The proposed components and outcomes of the project are as follows:

Component 1 - Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information: In the proposed alternative scenario, with GEF support, the project will mobilize and support governmental counterparts and a broad range of national stakeholders to provide input on the design of a user-friendly interface which matches their daily needs for information. The project will contribute to the goals of the GEF SFM reporting and verification (MRV) needs of performance-based projects and programs, as expressed in the national determined contributions of Armenia and Azerbaijan, through integration of forest cover change data with biomass maps being developed by groups such as Winrock and the Woods Hole Research Center. The outcomes of the project will implement a forest and land management tool that can support the development and implementation of collaborative cross-sectoral integrated land use management plans, at the regional, national and sub-national scale. Furthermore, by applying approaches and tools that have been developed as elements of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) for analysis of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) opportunities and implementation strategies in the South Caucasus countries, the project will contribute to the improved understanding of the socio-economic benefits of FLR. Data will be collected and analyzed to model and validate the economic benefits of scaling up FLR successes, along with anticipated carbon benefits and financial returns of FLR investments.

Outcome 1.1: Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Armenia

To achieve its goals, the project will carry out an assessment of available and relevant data and, with the help of an established multi-sectoral technical working group (see Component 2 below), will determine the content and structure of a forest and land-use decision support web-based tool for each country, that will be interactive, customizable and can perform instantaneous analyses for improved decision making. In addition, the tool will also integrate an interactive restoration opportunities map, using modelling based on criteria chosen by the technical working groups, that will improve information to implement reforestation projects and meet national and international restoration commitments.

Output 1.1.1: Stakeholder mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Armenia

Research will be performed, including a stakeholder analysis to determine the different actors involved within the forestry sector in Armenia. This will include involvement of the technical working group, stakeholders, and will also involve interviews and questionnaires. The goal of the research is to have a comprehensive understanding and view of all of the stakeholders involved in forestry sector in Armenia, including an analysis on the decision-making process for forestry and land use. The result of these analyses will be discussed with the technical working groups and then will be published as a stakeholder map and decision tree. The stakeholder analysis and decision tree will help the technical working group in deciding who to consult, what data is needed to input into the portal, and what kinds of dashboards should be created.

All existing data relevant to forestry and land-use around forests will be identified and collected with the help of the technical working group. Attribute table and metadata standards will be discussed with the technical working group and a standardization of attribute table and metadata information will be established for the creation of a database. Data will then be cleaned and organized into a centralized database according to the standardized criteria decided by the technical working group. Lastly, the technical working group will assess the inventory within the database to see where the gaps are and decide which datasets are important for stakeholders and decision makers, as per the stakeholder and decision-making analysis.

Output 1.1.2: Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Armenia

The project team, along with the technical working group, will assess the database and decision-making tree to decide which datasets are the most relevant to display in the portal based on national needs. This includes how data should be grouped and displayed within the interactive map. The project team will then customize the portal, including the interactive atlas, to meet national needs and input all determined datasets into the atlas. Specialized dashboards will be developed based on the priority decisions made by key decision-makers and on the recommendations of the technical working group. An Open Data Portal will also be developed and published to ensure that datasets not displayed on the main atlas are still open, transparent, and easily shared. The project team, along with recommendations from the technical working group and national steering committee will also determine a term of reference for future maintenance of the portal beyond the project, based on the stakeholder and decision-making analysis, and to ensure sustainability of the portal and tolls created after the project end.

Output 1.1.3: Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Armenia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied

The restoration opportunity map will be created by (1) identifying national land use challenges and landscape restoration options to address them; (2) identifying criteria to assess the potential to scale up landscape restoration options selected for mapping and compile the best readily available spatial data; and (3) producing maps and area statistics for national restoration options. The development of the map will be an iterative process, as draft maps will be reviewed within the technical working group and conditions and criteria will be adjusted as needed until the technical working group agrees on the accuracy of the final version of the map. The maps will indicate where restoration criteria have been met and will guide where to conduct further assessment and stakeholder engagement. The development of the map will help government, civil society and business leaders ascertain how they will achieve restoration. Local leaders can use the map to identify restoration activities, which could involve everything from planting trees alongside crops to reforesting clear-cut forests to adding vegetation along roads**.** The final map produced will be published onto the portal as a layer within the interactive atlas.

Output 1.1.4: Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and land use planning

After the final restoration opportunities map is developed, the technical working group, with approval from the national steering committee, will identify a priority landscape for restoration. A more detailed restoration opportunities analysis will be performed with the same methodology as the national analysis, including a detailed identification of barriers to restoration and restoration options to address the barriers, a stocktaking of relevant data, maps, and other materials for the priority landscape, and the publication of a map identifying the areas of opportunity within the landscape and the different potential options for restoration. The result will be the development of a publication that quantifies the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services on a national scale, with more detailed information on potential intervention strategies within the priority landscape. The project team will also develop a

feasibility plan to test the restoration options and strategy for the chosen priority landscape and will draft strategy to carry out Armenia pledge to the Bonn Challenge.

Outcome 1.2: Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Azerbaijan

Like in Armenia, to achieve its goals, the project will carry out an assessment of available and relevant data and, with the help of an established multi-sectoral technical working group (see Component 2 below), will determine the content and structure of a forest and land-use decision support web-based tool for each country, that will be interactive, customizable and can perform instantaneous analyses for improved decision making. In addition, the tool will also integrate an interactive restoration opportunities map, using modelling based on criteria chosen by the technical working groups, that will improve information to implement reforestation projects and meet national and international restoration commitments.

Output 1.2.1: Stakeholder mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan

Research will be performed, including a stakeholder analysis to determine the different actors involved within the forestry sector in Azerbaijan. This will include involvement of the technical working group, stakeholders, and will also involve interviews and questionnaires. The goal of the research is to have a comprehensive understanding and view of all of the stakeholders involved in forestry sector in Azerbaijan, including an analysis on the decision-making process for forestry use and management. The result of these analyses will be discussed with the technical working groups and then will be published as a stakeholder map and decision tree. The stakeholder analysis and decision tree will help the technical working group in deciding who to consult, what data is needed to input into the portal, and what kinds of dashboards should be created.

All existing data relevant to forestry and land-use around forests will be identified and collected with the help of the technical working group. Attribute table and metadata standards will be discussed with the technical working group and a standardization of attribute table and metadata information will be established for the creation of a database. Data will then be cleaned and organized into a centralized database according to the standardized criteria decided by the technical working group. Lastly, the technical working group will assess the inventory within the database to see where the gaps are and decide which datasets are important for stakeholders and decision makers, as per the stakeholder and decision-making analysis.

Output 1.2.2: Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Azerbaijan

The project team, along with the technical working group, will assess the database and decision-making tree to decide which datasets are the most relevant to display in the portal based on national needs. This includes how data should be grouped and displayed within the interactive map. The project team will then customize the portal, including the interactive atlas, to meet national needs and input all determined datasets into the atlas. Specialized dashboards will be developed based on the priority decisions made by key decision-makers and on the recommendations of the technical working group. An Open Data Portal will also be developed and published to ensure that datasets not displayed on the main atlas are still open, transparent, and easily shared. The project team will also research and develop legislative recommendations and protocols to establish the portal within the government of Azerbaijan to ensure its long-term use and success. Finally, for this output, project team, along with recommendations from the technical working group and

national steering committee will also determine a term of reference for future maintenance of the portal beyond the project, based on the stakeholder and decision-making analysis, and to ensure sustainability of the portal and tolls created after the project end.

Output 1.2.3: Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Azerbaijan based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied

The restoration opportunity map will be created by (1) identifying national land use challenges and landscape restoration options to address them; (2) identifying criteria to assess the potential to scale up landscape restoration options selected for mapping and compile the best readily available spatial data; and (3) producing maps and area statistics for national restoration options. The development of the map will be an iterative process, as draft maps will be reviewed within the technical working group and conditions and criteria will be adjusted as needed until the technical working group agrees on the accuracy of the final version of the map. The maps will indicate where restoration criteria have been met and will guide where to conduct further assessment and stakeholder engagement. The development of the map will help government, civil society and business leaders ascertain how they will achieve restoration. Local leaders can use the map to identify restoration activities, which could involve everything from planting trees alongside crops to reforesting clear-cut forests to adding vegetation along roads**.** The final map produced will be published onto the portal as a layer within the interactive atlas.

Output 1.2.4: Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration planning

After the final restoration opportunities map is developed, the technical working group, with approval from the national steering committee, will identify a priority landscape for restoration. A more detailed restoration opportunities analysis will be performed with the same methodology as the national analysis, including a detailed identification of barriers to restoration and restoration options to address the barriers, a stocktaking of relevant data, maps, and other materials for the priority landscape, and the publication of a map identifying the areas of opportunity within the landscape and the different potential options for restoration. The result will be the development of a publication that quantifies the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services on a national scale, with more detailed information on potential intervention strategies within the priority landscape. The project team will also develop a feasibility plan to test the restoration options and a draft submission for an official pledge from Azerbaijan to the Bonn Challenge.

Outcome 1.3: Enable improved forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Georgia

Georgia will be upscaling its already existing forest and land-use portal developed under the scope of the GEF-funded project “Global Forest Watch,” with the creation of an additional dataset on restoration opportunities that will be input into their portal as a layer. As in Armenia and Azerbaijan, to achieve its goals, with the help of an established multi-sectoral technical working group (see Component 2 below), the project will integrate an interactive restoration opportunities map, using modelling based on criteria chosen by the technical working groups, that will improve information to implement reforestation projects and meet national and international restoration commitments.

Output 1.3.1: Restoration Opportunity Map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Georgia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested and applied

The restoration opportunity map will be created by (1) identifying national land use challenges and landscape restoration options to address them; (2) identifying criteria to assess the potential to scale up landscape restoration options selected for mapping and compile the best readily available spatial data; and (3) producing maps and area statistics for national restoration options. The development of the map will be an iterative process, as draft maps will be

reviewed within the technical working group and conditions and criteria will be adjusted as needed until the technical working group agrees on the accuracy of the final version of the map. The maps will indicate where restoration criteria have been met and will guide where to conduct further assessment and stakeholder engagement. The development of the map will help government, civil society and business leaders ascertain how they will achieve restoration. Local leaders can use the map to identify restoration activities, which could involve everything from planting trees alongside crops to reforesting clear-cut forests to adding vegetation along roads**.** The final map produced will be published onto the portal as a layer within the already existing interactive atlas that was developed as a result of the GEF-funded project "Global Forest Watch."

Component 2 - Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions: In order to both create the portal and to apply its information within the workflow of the decision-makers within the forestry sector, the project will create technical working groups and a national steering committee. In addition, a capacity building plan will be created during the first year of the project, after needs have been identified, and then carried out throughout the course of the project.

Outcome 2.1: Stakeholders in Armenia capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs

Capacity building and stakeholder engagement is essential to the successful implementation of this project. The project is one that relies on a participatory approach and the involvement of key experts and stakeholders to make decision and help guide the direction of the project. Capacity building was identified in the PPG stage as an important factor for Armenia and indispensable for the long-term success of achieving the project's objective.

Output 2.1.1: Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project

The project will establish a multi-stakeholder national technical working group, consisting of government agencies and representatives, NGOs, and academia and determined by the national steering committee on an individual basis, to carry out an assessment of available and necessary data to input into the national platforms, based on national priorities and the needs of decision makers. In addition, the working group will also perform an assessment of potential restoration opportunities, which is a critical step towards forging a coordinated strategy for scaling up landscape restoration in project countries. An important aspect of this component is the hosting of a series of regional and national workshops focused on analyzing different landscape restoration options for the countries by identifying the most pressing land use challenges currently affecting Armenia, as well as a list of restoration opportunities that could address these challenges. National technical working groups will be tasked with mapping and quantifying where different restoration options could potentially be implemented in order to help inform a national restoration target that will contribute to the many national priorities. Because of the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder nature of the technical working groups, the priorities would cover a wide range of landscapes including forest lands, agricultural lands and rangelands. These maps will be integrated into the broader forest and land-use web-based portal that will be built based on the needs of the MNP, and will include instant analysis features for decision making.

The project will support the technical working group by planning and organizing meetings, facilitating discussions with clear objectives, and ensure that the group's feedback is directing the data that goes onto the forest and land-use portal as well as directing the criteria used to model the restoration opportunity maps. The project will identify and document key success factors in observed cases of successful local and national initiatives, and diagnose policy reforms, institutional strengthening, capacity building, expanded communication an outreach and other interventions that are needed to enable and accelerate the scaling up the enabling conditions for better land-use decisions and forest landscape

restoration. The project's outcome will be awareness and understanding of the status of forested landscapes on a national and regional scale including restoration opportunities by national and local governments and stakeholders.

Output 2.1.2: Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization

The current capacity and future capacity needs will be assessed by the project team and a training and outreach plan will be developed based on the results of the stakeholder analysis performed in output 1.1.1. The plan will be presented to the national steering committee for comments before it is implemented. In addition. A number of workshops and other outreach events and materials will be developed to ensure the intended beneficiaries know about the portal's existence and understand how to use it for their needs.

Outcome 2.2: Stakeholders in Azerbaijan capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs

Capacity building and stakeholder engagement is essential to the successful implementation of this project. The project is one that relies on a participatory approach and the involvement of key experts and stakeholders to make decision and help guide the direction of the project. Capacity building was identified in the PPG stage as an important factor for Azerbaijan and indispensable for the long-term success of achieving the project's objective.

Output 2.2.1: Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project

The project will establish a multi-stakeholder national technical working group, consisting f government agencies and representatives, NGOs, and academia and determined by the national steering committee on an individual basis, to carry out an assessment of available and necessary data to input into the national platforms, based on national priorities and the needs of decision makers. In addition, the working group will also perform an assessment of potential restoration opportunities, which is a critical step towards forging a coordinated strategy for scaling up landscape restoration in project countries. An important aspect of this component is the hosting of a series of regional and national workshops focused on analyzing different landscape restoration options for the countries by identifying the most pressing forestry challenges currently affecting Azerbaijan as well as a list of restoration opportunities that could address these challenges. National technical working groups will be tasked with mapping and quantifying where different restoration options could potentially be implemented in order to help inform a national restoration target that will contribute to the many national priorities. Because of the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder nature of the technical working groups, the priorities would cover a wide range of landscapes including forest lands, agricultural lands and rangelands. These maps will be integrated into the broader forest web-based portal that will be built based on the needs of the MENR and will include instant analysis features for decision making.

The project will support the technical working group by planning and organizing meetings, facilitating discussions with clear objectives, and ensure that the group's feedback is directing the data that goes onto the forest and land-use portal as well as directing the criteria used to model the restoration opportunity maps. The project will identify and document key success factors in observed cases of successful local and national initiatives, and diagnose policy reforms, institutional strengthening, capacity building, expanded communication an outreach and other interventions that are needed to enable and accelerate the scaling up the enabling conditions for better forestry related decisions and forest landscape restoration. The project's outcome will be awareness and understanding of the status of forested landscapes on a national and regional scale including restoration opportunities by national and local governments and stakeholders.

Output 2.2.2: Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization

The current capacity and future capacity needs will be assessed by the project team and a training and outreach plan will be developed based on the results of the stakeholder analysis performed in output 1.2.1. The plan will be presented to the national steering committee for comments before it is implemented. In addition. A number of workshops and other outreach events and materials will be developed to ensure the intended beneficiaries know about the portal's existence and understand how to use it for their needs.

Outcome 2.3: Stakeholders in Georgia capacitated to apply GFW to decisions related to landscape restoration by participation in exchanges and training programs

Capacity building and stakeholder engagement is essential to the successful implementation of this project in Georgia. The project is one that relies on a participatory approach and the involvement of key experts and stakeholders to make decision and help guide the direction of the project. Capacity building was identified in the PPG stage as an important factor for Georgia and indispensable for the long-term success of achieving the project's objective.

Output 2.3.1: Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project

The project will establish a multi-stakeholder national technical working group, consisting of government agencies and representatives, NGOs, and academia and determined by the national steering committee on an individual basis, to carry out an assessment of potential restoration opportunities, which is a critical step towards forging a coordinated strategy for scaling up landscape restoration in project countries. An important aspect of this component is the hosting of a series of regional and national workshops focused on analyzing different landscape restoration options for the countries by identifying the most pressing land use challenges currently affecting Georgia, as well as a list of restoration opportunities that could address these challenges. National technical working groups will be tasked with mapping and quantifying where different restoration options could potentially be implemented in order to help inform a national restoration target that will contribute to the many national priorities. Because of the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder nature of the technical working groups, the priorities would cover a wide range of landscapes including forest lands, agricultural lands and rangelands. These maps will be integrated into the broader forest and land-use web-based portal that was be built based on the needs of the MEPA during the GEF-funded "Global Forest Watch" project.

The project will support the technical working group by planning and organizing meetings, facilitating discussions with clear objectives, and ensure that the group's feedback is directing the criteria used to model the restoration opportunity maps. The project will identify and document key success factors in observed cases of successful local and national initiatives, and diagnose policy reforms, institutional strengthening, capacity building, expanded communication an outreach and other interventions that are needed to enable and accelerate the scaling up the enabling conditions for better land-use decisions and forest landscape restoration. The project's outcome will be awareness and understanding of the status of forested landscapes on a national and regional scale including restoration opportunities by national and local governments and stakeholders.

Output 2.3.2: Training and outreach on use of restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization

The current capacity and future capacity needs will be assessed by the project team and a training and outreach plan will be developed based on the results of the stakeholder analysis performed in output 1.2.1. The plan will be presented to the national steering committee for comments before it is implemented. In addition. A number of workshops and other outreach events and materials will be developed to ensure the intended beneficiaries know about the portal's existence and understand how to use it for their needs.

1.4. Incremental Cost Reasoning and Expected Baseline Contributions from the Baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and Co-financing

Current practices	Alternative practices	Expected benefits
Component 1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information	Decision support tools with local and global up-to-date data will make information accessible and provide analyses needed for sustainable forest management.	National decision support tools will dramatically improve the availability of forest related information, allowing users to make analysis and easily obtain information they need for decision making, including for international reporting (e.g. UNFF, FAO, ENECE, SDGs etc.)
Countries currently have no centralized platform for spatial information on forests. GFW is set up on a global scale and in select target countries; however, its application in Armenia & Azerbaijan is very limited. Restoration is a priority, but capacity is limited to achieve national targets as expressed under UNCCD, Aichi 15, NCF, etc.	A restoration opportunity mapping exercise will be conducted that will add new information to the tool that addresses specific restoration issues in the South Caucasus countries. The mapping will quantify the area of opportunity in each country based on best local knowledge and WRI's tested Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology.	Enabling legal and policy conditions will be improved across sectors to enhance the roles of trees in agricultural landscapes and to restore forests and increase tree cover in ways that contribute to the strategies of avoided deforestation, land degradation, and contribute to afforestation and biodiversity conservation.
Component 2 - Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions There is limited awareness and understanding of the status of forested landscapes on a national and regional scale including restoration opportunities by national and local governments and stakeholders.	Capacity and governance will be assessed to identify gaps, and in-country partners will be heavily engaged to build capacity and improve governance through learning events and exchanges. A knowledge network will be facilitated that brings together experts and organizations engaged with forestry and landscape restoration to facilitate technical exchange across sectors and regions.	Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organizations that will bring sustainability to the project for continued use and expertise.

Scenario without the GEF investment: The baseline for the project rationale is mainly founded on efforts and actions implemented by the government institutions in cooperation with international funds and agencies. Without the GEF investment:

- Data will be hard to find and obtain and will remain dispersed across multiple sectoral stakeholders and ministries;
- Spatial analyses will require GIS expertise for basic land-use management decisions;
- Restoration plans will remain vague and undefined with unmet goals.

Scenario with the GEF investment: GEF funds will serve as catalyst to develop a coherent and coordinated approach to address forest management transparency and progression of restoration commitments. More specifically, the GEF investment will facilitate:

- In Armenia and Azerbaijan, an interactive forest and land-use portal with both local and global data, and in local languages, that will be customizable and include important ready-to-use analyses for better decision making and to more easily share information;
- In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, a restoration opportunities map, created by a multi-sectoral committee, that illustrates the main areas of opportunity for restoring forests and landscapes;
- Training and outreach on use and upkeep of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government and other important stakeholders.

1.5. Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and/or Adaptation Benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

GFW is first and foremost about information and knowledge building. However, generating global environmental benefits requires that additional steps be taken beyond the level of information and knowledge. Individual actors—including governmental, non-governmental, private sector, local communities, etc.—will need to act upon improved information in order to effect change. Thus, while better information creates the conditions that enable improved management and benefit creation, those benefits are only generated when the information is used to transform action.

As the home of two-thirds of all plants and animals living on land, forests are the most biodiverse terrestrial ecosystems. Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation accounts for 15-17% of global human induced GHG emissions and without addressing poor forest management it will be impossible to limit global warming to the target of two degrees Celsius (UNFCC). The project will generate significant global environmental benefits by:

- Supporting the improved conservation and management of a total of approximately 1.7 million ha of forest habitats in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia;
- Contributing to the implementation of the Bonn Challenge by identifying areas of reforestation and restoration, which could increase forest cover and reduce areas of forest fragmentation in the South Caucasus;
- Supporting the enhanced conservation of natural habitat in the Caucasus region, a biodiversity hotspot with at least 1,600 endemic species as a result of the above-mentioned benefits.

A fundamental concern of the present project is to better understand the complex relationship between, on one hand, improved forest information and, on the other, action that generates national and global environmental benefits. Thus, a central element of the project's monitoring and evaluation approach will be to focus on improving such understanding. The project design has deliberately emphasized national-level action as opposed to site-level demonstrations. This was due to the perception that management processes—particularly exchange of information between central and local management authorities—were critical and that there would be little advantage or cost saving accruing from a narrowly focused, demonstration site-based approach. In other words, a national and system-wide approach would have greater impact and be more cost effective than a more geographically focused one. In line with this thinking, GEBs are based on realistic targeted reductions in national-level deforestation rates.

1.6. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Scaling Up: GFW has been scaling up forest and land use platforms over the last 5 years, creating new applications and increasing its uptake around the world. GFW's current project in Georgia is the first deep dive of GFW on a national scale within temperate landscapes. By expanding the focus to the South Caucasus region, outcomes and lessons learned can be shared and incorporated to further understand GFW's potential impact on national and regional scales and provide opportunities for wider use throughout the Greater Caucasus and Eurasia. In addition, during the PPG stage it the potential for scaling up beyond the forestry sector was identified. The forest portal could potentially take on new data for a wider reach within the land-use sector, including agriculture, water, and energy.

Sustainability: Capacity building is one of the major components of the project and as a result there will be a strong focus on the knowledge transfer and training on data management, infrastructure maintenance, and the use and application of GFW as a tool for insights from up-to-date information and analyses for land-use decision making. In addition, the project will institute a multi-sector technical working group in each country that will drive the direction of the project and make all major decisions including which spatial information to include in the portal, criteria for the restoration opportunities map, and development of strategy to ensure longevity of the project's outcomes. The inclusiveness of the technical working group will ensure deep knowledge of the project from within and a sense of ownership and responsibility for maintenance after the project is completed.

Innovativeness: The project promises an innovative tool to governments and non-government stakeholders alike, significantly increasing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of their forest stewardship efforts. As new satellite constellations with greater spatial and temporal resolution are launched, or as new algorithms for interpreting remote sensing data are developed and rapidly adopted by GFW, the initiative will integrate information from these new and unique datasets into the GFW system. The project will provide Armenia and Azerbaijan with a centralized data management and web support system for forest landscapes, which they currently do not have, and provide all three South Caucasus countries with an easy to understand and comprehensive tool to better take advantage of restoration opportunities using a tested scientific method. In addition, the tools developed will be the first of their kind to combine restoration opportunities with tree cover loss/gain data from GFW, a novel integrated approach. The tool will be dynamic, customizable, with personalized dashboards and the ability to add data and analyses that are tailored to the needs of each country.

A.2. Child Project? If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

NA

A.3. *Stakeholders*. Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment. (Type response here; if available, upload document or provide link) In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

During the PPG period, all initial stakeholders from the PIF were consulted and invited to the inception and validation workshops for the project for review of the project activities and deliverables and to provide input and advice for the project development. At the inception workshop, attendees performed a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify all stakeholders who should be involved and their level of involvement. New stakeholders were then consulted for project development, included in the validation workshop, and added to the updated stakeholder engagement plan below.

The project relies on a participatory approach and stakeholder engagement is crucial for the project's success. Because of the high importance of stakeholder engagement, the project includes specific outcomes, outputs and activities in conducting a thorough stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis to ensure that all stakeholders are identified, and their needs are addressed throughout the scope of the project. During the project execution, all major stakeholders will be invited to be a part of the technical working groups and/or the project steering committees, depending on the stakeholders' relevancy to the group. The technical working group will have regular meetings, at least quarterly, and will be consulted on all technical aspects of the project, including being consulted on all major decisions on data, map making, and the creation of the atlas. The creation of the atlas and of the restoration opportunity analysis requires a participatory approach and so all stakeholders will be consulted and have the opportunity to comment on the data and information inputs to the atlas. The steering committee will meet at least yearly and will be consulted on the progress of the project to provide consultation and advice as the project progresses. All meetings will be recorded with detailed minutes that will be disseminated to all members of the technical working groups and project steering committees and will also be shared publicly to any interested stakeholder or party.

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
REGIONAL PARTNERS			
UNDP	UNDP has three objectives of its regional	UNDP was included during the first	UNDP has ongoing initiatives that directly

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
	program: • to help put into place effective systems of governance to accelerate structural transformations; • to promote greener, more inclusive economies and gender equality to ensure that economic growth leaves no one behind and restores, rather than further depletes, the natural capital; and • to chart risk-informed development pathways to build resilience and prevent shocks and crises.	stakeholder consultation of the PPG stage and was also invited to the inception and validation workshops to provide input during the project development.	align the objective and outputs of this project. The project team will coordinate with the UNDP offices in all three South Caucasus countries to ensure coordination of relevant projects. In addition, a representative from UNDP in each country will be invited to the national steering committees.
GIZ	GIZ works in Georgia and the two neighbouring countries Armenia and Azerbaijan in the following priority areas: • Sustainable economic development • Democracy, civil society and public administration • Environmental policy, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources	GIZ was included during the first stakeholder consultation of the PPG stage and was also invited to the inception and validation workshops to provide input during the project development.	GIZ has ongoing initiatives that directly align the objective and outputs of this project. The project team will coordinate with the GIZ offices in all three South Caucasus countries to ensure coordination of relevant projects. In addition, a representative from GIZ in each country will be invited to the national steering committees.
ARMENIA			
Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia (MNP)	MNP is responsible for: • developing the public policies and strategies for rational use and reproduction of the environment • elaborating the environment-related legislation, standards and technical regulations • developing economic mechanisms including rates for environmental and utilization fees for protection of environment and rational use and restoration of natural resources (except mineral reserves).	MNP is one of the executing partners of the project and was included in the design of the project concept from the onset of the project development. MNP was included during the first stakeholder consultation and the project inception and validation workshops were hosted by the MNP, who opened and closed the meetings.	A representative of the MNP will lead the National Project Steering Committee. All documents prepared within the project will be discussed and agreed with MNP.

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
		Design and development of the project logical framework, activities and deliverables was done in close consultation with MNP.	
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia (MoA)	For implementation of its goals and objectives, the Ministry performs, the following: • approval of relevant administrative statistical reporting forms and maintenance of administrative statistical registers based on the collected data and information • elaboration and monitoring of development programs in the sphere of preservation protection, reproduction and utilization of forests, as well as programs for the efficient use of forest resources • elaboration and monitoring of programs for fire safety of forest lands, as well as for pest and disease control measures • forests classification according to their functional significance • approval of state forest management plans • elaboration and monitoring of programs for increasing the efficiency of agricultural land use and melioration (improvement) in the Republic of Armenia according to the legislation • elaboration and monitoring of innovation programs, as well as programs for introduction of scientific-technical policies and advanced technologies	The MoA was included in both the project's inception and validation workshops to weigh in on the proposed project design and provide feedback.	Through its involvement in the National Project Steering Committee, MoA-AM will help to plan and implement project activities and achieve planned results.
"Hayantar" (SNCO *Armenia-Forest*) - State Non-Commercial Organization (SNCO) of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia	SNCO *Armenia-Forest* ensures the conservation, protection, reproduction, use, registration, stock taking and inventory, cadaster maintenance of forests, improvement of forest productivity and forest soil fertility, sustainable use of forest resources. It also performs the following business activities - timber harvesting, processing and marketing, growing and marketing of planting stocks (seedlings, plantlets), non-timber forest use (hay harvesting, animal grazing, installation of bee-hives, collection of wild fruit, nuts, mushrooms, berries, medicinal herbs and technical raw materials), as well as processing and marketing of the aforementioned bio-resources,	SNCO *Armenia-Forest* was included both the project's inception and validation workshops to weigh in on the proposed project design and provide feedback. Additional meetings were also held with SNCO *Armenia-Forest* to discuss project design and development further, as they will be one of the key stakeholders and users of the project	SNCO *Armenia-Forest* will be directly involved in data gathering and national forest ecosystem and landscape restoration planning and implementation.

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
	growing agricultural products on agricultural plots, processing and marketing; provision of recreation and tourism-related services as well as provision of consultancy services and information. Responsibilities of the SNCO *Armenia-Forest*, includes: • Implementation of forest rehabilitation and reforestation • Planning, implementation coordination, management and implementation control of reforestation and afforestation, as well as seed growing, selection – expansion of seed production, and forest reclamation activities • Planning, implementation coordination, management and implementation control of reforestation and afforestation activities, rehabilitation of low value tree-bush and low-density forest stands, as well as activities promoting natural coppice-shoot regeneration.	deliverables.	
Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members (local population) adjacent to forests	Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members adjacent to forest areas are ground-level stakeholders and final beneficiaries regarding forest ecosystem services.	Local NGOs were consulted during the project development phase and were included as invitees to the inception and validation workshops to provide feedback.	Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members will play participatory role in forest ecosystem and landscape restoration planning and especially in implementation of pilot restoration projects at local level.
Research organizations and academia	Many of the research organizations are the owners of important historical and current data on forestry and forest related issues. These partners will help to identify overall forestry and forest restoration priorities and solutions, including agrotechnological best practices for forest restoration.	Difference academic institutions and research organizations were consulted from the start of the project development, including participation in the inception and validation workshops.	Through their participation, research organizations and academia will technically assist in planning and implement of project activities.
AZERBAIJAN			
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic (MENR)	In the sphere of forest management, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic (MENR): • Implements the state policy in natural resources (including forests), their usage, restoration and protection and protection of biodiversity	MENR is one of the executing partners of the project and was included in the design of the project concept from the onset of the project development. MENR was included during the first	A representative of the MENR will lead the National Project Steering Committee. MENR staff will be involved in all stages of project implementation. All documents prepared within the project will be

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
	• Plans and implements the state programs in usage, restoration, establishment, protection of the forests • Works out and implements corresponding national activity programs on ecology and nature exploitation • Performs enforcement activities in the spheres of the environmental protection and the use of natural resources to provide population with right to live in healthy environment • Carries out state supervision in preservation of environment in the process of exploitation of natural resources, minerals, flora (forests as well), fauna (fish as well), water sources, as well as in ecological restoration and protection of the soil • Implementers corresponding international obligations • Implements state policy in ecological education; • Implement state control over hunting and protection and use of hunting production • Executes other duties according to the national legislation	stakeholder consultation and the project inception and validation workshops were hosted by the MENR, who opened and closed the meetings. Design and development of the project logical framework, activities and deliverables was done in close consultation with MENR, who provided feedback throughout the process.	discussed and agreed with MENR.
Forest Development Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic (*FDD*)	FDD is directly responsible for the forest management (including forest restoration). Other than the FDD's central office and its central structural units, there are more than 40 local territorial Forest Management Enterprises[17] (FME's), number of State Nurseries and one Forestry Research Institute under the management of the FDD.	FDD was consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops.	FDD will be directly involved in data gathering and national forest ecosystem and landscape restoration planning and implementation.
Biodiversity Protection and Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas Department	Establishment of a network of perspective development of the territories in the State nature reserves and national parks, conducting the state cadaster of specially protected natural areas and objects for the purpose of strengthening the state control over observance of the protection regime; Carry out measures to preserve the natural state of the genetic fund, ecological systems, natural complexes, and facilities.	The Biodiversity Protection and Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas Department was consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation	As this project focuses on biodiversity, the Biodiversity Protection and Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas Department will be an integral role in consultation to the tools developed. They will also be a main user of the portal for the purpose of monitoring protected

[17] Forest Protection and Restoration Enterprise.

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
		workshops.	areas.
Forestry Scientific-Research Institute (FSRI) under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic	FSRI is directly responsible for research regarding all aspects of forestry in Azerbaijan.	FSRI was consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops. During the project development, needs of FSRI was discussed, as well as available existing data.	FSRI will be directly involved in data gathering and will be part of the technical working group of the project
State Agency on Cartography and Geodesy under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Carry out geodesy (excluding special (geographical) geodesy), topography, gravimetry, cartography and mapping, defining borders of territorial units, the establishment of geographical information systems of state significance, as well as explores the soil and vegetation of the earth's surface based on aerospace data	State Agency on Cartography and Geodesy under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources was consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops. During the project development, capacity of State Agency on Cartography and Geodesy was discussed, along with existing data and maps.	The State Agency on Cartography and Geodesy will be directly involved in data gathering, cleaning, and will be involved in the capacity building component of the project.
National Environmental Monitoring Department	To monitor the degree of pollution of natural resources, flora (including forests) and animals (including fishes), soil, underground and surface water, and their use, assess anthropogenic and other impacts on the environment, to carry out centralized monitoring of natural environment monitoring data, predicting the dynamics of changes in the environment.	National Environmental Monitoring Department was consulted during the project development to provide feedback.	National Environmental Monitoring Department are not main stakeholders but will be consulted as stakeholders during the project and would participate in capacity building measures as potential users of the portal.
Information Archive Fund for Environment	The main function is to collect, systematize, and use information on the state of the environment,	Information Archive Fund for Environment	Information Archive Fund for Environment

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
and Natural Resources	including information on forests, specially protected natural areas, natural monuments, and complexes. Ensure the formation of a unified information system and a database of environmental protection and the current state of nature use, including biodiversity and forest fund. Provides the formation, creation, and expansion of the Geographic Information System's information base. Provides subordinate Electronic Information System with modern computer equipment, computer programs, and other auxiliary equipment. Providing relevant information to the Central Office and other subordinate agencies of the Ministry on the basis of the collected and systematized data, organizing the registration of forest areas, specially protected natural areas.	and Natural Resources was consulted during the project development to provide feedback.	and Natural Resources will be consulted during the project to ensure coordination of information systems. They will have an integral role as data providers and also potential users of the portal.
State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan	Key partner for the project taking into account that the main role of the organization is the collecting of information at all levels countrywide. The organization publishing all environment-related information on the webpage and play a role of main key stakeholder on managing and storing for the data. With the financial support of the European Union, Eastern Partnership countries implement the project "Principles and Practices for the Integrated Environmental Information System (ENI SEISIIEast)" and 44 out of the 49 of the UN Economic Commission indicators have been made available and accessible, covering the indicators for the forest, land use and biodiversity components, including indicators on protected areas, biosphere reserves and wetlands of international importance, forests and other wooded land, land uptake, area affected by soil erosion and others.	State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan was identified during the PPG stage and newly added to the list of project stakeholders.	State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan will be key data providers for the project as they are responsible for collecting a wide range of data and national statistics for Azerbaijan.
Amelioration and Water Economy Open	OJSC is also stakeholder at the national level taking into account the activities carried out.	OJSC was consulted during the project	OJSC are not main stakeholders but will be

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
Joint-Stock Company (Forest Amelioration department)	The agency planting the forest protection lines along the melioration and irrigation systems under the agency and carrying out measures on preventing fire and different diseases. According to the "The strategic roadmap for the production and processing of agricultural products in the Republic of Azerbaijan", approved by the relevant decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, relevant activities on efficient use of land and implementation of land cultivation measures, are being carried out jointly with the relevant agencies, as well as with the Amelioration and Water Economy Open Joint-Stock Company. According to the "State Program for the development of distance surveillance services in the Republic of Azerbaijan via satellite technologies 2019-2022" approved by the relevant order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, relevant activities will be carried out to monitor soil erosion and degradation using satellite images, jointly with the relevant agencies, as well as with the Amelioration and Water Economy Open Joint-Stock Company.	development to provide feedback.	consulted as stakeholders during the project and would participate in capacity building measures as potential users of the portal.
National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan	The ANAS covers roles and responsibilities through multiple sub-institutions, including botany, zoology, genetic resources, soil science and agro chemistry. Through these institutes they carry out different scientific studies, create inventory databases and carry out specific scientific and environmental assessments on management practices related to forested areas.	ANAS was consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops. During the project development, available existing data was discussed that could be provided to the project.	ANAS will be key data providers and will also be potential users of the portal for research purposes.
“Azercosmos” OJSC	Providing services with the satellite imageries and data analysis on satellite imageries with at the different scales. According to the MoU which was signed between Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the Azercosmos Open Joint Stock Company, it is envisaged cooperation in the field of monitoring of forest areas, preparation of cadaster of green areas,	Azercosmos was consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops. During the	Azercosmos will be key data providers for the project, providing imagery for Azerbaijan as well as potentially provided new analyses to display on the atlas.

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
	establishment of EcoGIS systems, monitoring of land degradation and desertification, as well as erosion and sliding processes in foothill zones in Azerbaijan. According to the "State Program for the development of distance surveillance services in the Republic of Azerbaijan via satellite technologies 2019-2022" approved by the relevant order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is envisaged the following appropriate measures: - Using satellite images for monitoring specially protected natural areas; - Using satellite images for inventory and monitoring of forest and green areas; - Using satellite images to detect degraded areas of forest ecosystems (areas affected by burning, drying, pests); - Using satellite images to monitor soil erosion and degradation. Relevant activities on above-mentioned measures will be carried out jointly with the relevant agencies.	project development, available data and imagery was discussed that could be useful for the project. Azercosmos will also be participating in the GFW User Conference held in June 2019 for further discussion on cooperation.	
Municipalities	Municipalities involve local people in the solution of environmental issues that are not envisaged by the state but envisaged by the local importance. These programs include but are not limited to, the preservation of the ecological balance, protecting water, air, soil from pollution, environmental measures and other local significance measures. The municipalities are also responsible control of efficient and sustainable use for the lands leased out by the municipality as well as participating in the preparation of maps of territorial units under the municipalities.	Municipalities were identified as key stakeholders during the PPG phase of the project. During project development, they were represented by members of MENR and local NGOs who work directly with municipalities and understand their needs. Municipalities will be directly consulted during project implementation.	Municipalities will play a role in providing data and feedback in the restoration opportunities analysis during project implementation. In addition, municipalities will be consulted during any local data collection and when reporting on restoration benefits and drafting any policy instruments.
Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members (local	Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members adjacent to forest areas are ground-level stakeholders and final beneficiaries regarding forest ecosystem services.	Local NGOs were consulted from the start of the project	Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
population) adjacent to forests		development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops.	members will play participatory role in forest ecosystem and landscape restoration planning and especially in implementation of pilot restoration projects at local level.
Research organizations and academia	Many of the research organizations are the owners of important historical and current data on forestry and forest related issues. These partners will help to identify overall forestry and forest restoration priorities and solutions, including agrotechnological best practices for forest restoration.	Different research organizations and academia were consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops.	Through their participation, research organizations and academia will technically assist in planning and implement of project activities.
GEORGIA			
Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA)	MEPA is responsible for: • development and implementation of the state policy on protection od forests and use of forest resources; • coordination of the forest sector reforms, review and adoption of forest management plans, coordination of international activities and processes, supporting effective implementation of the National Forest Concept of Georgia, as well as ensuring public participation in forest related decision-making process.	MEPA is one of the executing partners of the project and was included in the design of the project concept from the onset of the project development. MEPA was included during the first stakeholder consultation and the project inception and validation workshops were hosted by the MEPA, who opened and closed the meetings. Design and development of the project logical framework, activities and deliverables was done in close consultation with MEPA, who provided feedback throughout the process.	A representative of the MEPA will lead the National Project Steering Committee. MEPA, through its Forest and Biodiversity Policy Office (FBPO), will help to develop National Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration Plan.
National Forest Agency (NFA) of the Ministry of Environment Protection and	The responsibilities of the NFA, include: • Implementation of forest maintenance and reforestation, sustainable use of biodiversity components of the forest	NFA was consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback	NFA will be directly involved in data gathering and national forest ecosystem and landscape restoration

Stakeholder	Current Mandate / Responsibilities	Role during PPG stage	Expected Role in Project
Agriculture of Georgia	fund territory, management of forest fund and conducting necessary activities; regulation of forest use; controlling forest use on the territory on forest fund (except license requirements); forest inventory and management planning.	during the inception and validation workshops.	planning and implementation.
Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members (local population) adjacent to forests	Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members adjacent to forest areas are ground-level stakeholders and final beneficiaries regarding forest ecosystem services.	Different local NGOs were consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops.	Local NGOs/CBBs / Local communities and local community members will play participatory role in forest ecosystem and landscape restoration planning and especially in implementation of pilot restoration projects at local level.
Research organizations and academia	Many of the research organizations are the owners of important historical and current data on forestry and forest related issues. These partners will help to identify overall forestry and forest restoration priorities and solutions, including agrotechnological best practices for forest restoration.	Different research organizations and academic institutions were consulted from the start of the project development and participated and provided feedback during the inception and validation workshops.	Through their participation, research organizations and academia will technically assist in planning and implement of project activities.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:
☐Consulted only;
☐Member of Advisory Body; contractor;
☒Co-financier;
☒Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;
☒Executor or co-executor;
☐Other (Please explain)

A.4. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.* Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment. (Type response here; if available, upload document or provide link)
Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment? (yes ☒ /no☐) If yes, please upload gender action plan or equivalent here.
If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:
☐ closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;
☒ improving women's participation and decision making; and or
☐ generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.
Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? (yes ☒ /no☐)

Deforestation is a growing problem in the three countries and deforestation can affect men and women differently, in part due to the predominance of men in both the local production of commodities as well as in the local and national

governing bodies involved in natural resource management. Women are often excluded from the processes of the forest and resource decisions and can also be excluded from the use of forest resources, making them more vulnerable to the impacts of commodity land conversion and deforestation. In addition, the role of rural women as food producers and providers links them directly to the management of genetic resources for food and agriculture and puts them in a unique position as decision makers for biodiversity protection including seed production, species conservation, ecosystems and natural resource use. Agriculture is more productive in areas with higher biodiversity and improved land management can lead to increased biodiversity, especially in degraded areas, positively impacting women in rural communities.

Armenia: In Armenia, people who live in rural areas rely on small scale subsistence farming, yet limited ownership of land by women reduces their capacity to adapt to losses or to make decisions about how land is used. In Armenia, a higher proportion of the working population of women works in agriculture, estimated by FAO as more than 40% of working women, compared with only 30% of working men..[18] Because of this, issues such as biodiversity loss, which is linked to land and soil degradation, could disproportionately affect women's livelihoods and financial security yet women are often not included in decision-making at the community level.

Azerbaijan: The government of Azerbaijan is actively working to ensure equal opportunities for both women and men, however gender disparities are still common. In Azerbaijan, women have higher unemployment, higher marginalization in the workforce and lower participation in decision making. 47% of the working population women are employed in the agricultural sector, a much higher rate than the percentage of working men employed in agriculture. In addition, many women work in agriculture but are not paid for their work and are therefore not counted in this statistic.[19] In rural areas, almost 39% of households are managed by single women. The women took active role in collecting wild fruits, berries and medicine herbs from pastures and forests and organize their selling. Mostly they are those who keep tradition knowledge on sustainable usage of resources (e.g. in picking the mushrooms, or berries without damaging its reproduction). Women in rural communities are often not taken into account for decisions relating to land use, including the protection of biodiversity. Women also make specific contributions to forestry and biodiversity value chains. These are important for their incomes, and in turn for the well-being and food security of their households. Since 2008 the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been conducting sample survey on "Family peasant and households who participated in the supply of forest products in the forest fund and other lands" in the settlements located near forest areas on the country territory. As a result of the survey, data on women participating in the collection of forest products is obtained. According to this survey, in 2017, 42.4% of those involved in the supply of forest products are women. Women play an exclusive role in the cultivation of various types of planting materials, seeds supply, and other forestry work in the Regional Forestry Centers of the Forestry Development Department and also play a key role in the laboratory analysis of seeds and in scientific-research works on forestry and biodiversity.

Georgia: In Georgia, agricultural production is often performed by women, with roles such as seed selection, sustainable use of plant and animal diversity, and livestock management Yet despite a greater proportion of women workers, official statistics show that the proportion of land operated by female farmers is 20%, compared to 80% operated by men.[20] In addition, rural households that are headed by women, suffer more from poverty than those headed by men. Some of the main barriers for women are a lack of training, persistent stereotypes, and low participation in local decision making.

The analyses of economic benefits, key success factors, and enabling conditions and related recommendations will take account of gender dimensions and highlight the importance of attention to gender to the achievement of desired project

[18] *Source*: *UN report finds gender inequalities persisting in rural Armenia* (2017) http://www.fao.org/armenia/news/detail-events/en/c/891952/
[19] *Source*: *Women empowerment through enhancing agricultural extension services in Turkey and Azerbaijan* (2014) FAO http://www.fao.org/europe/news/detail-news/en/c/272933/
[20] *Source*: *Pervasive Gender Inequality in Rural Areas* (2016) UN Women http://georgia.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/04/pervasive-gender-inequality-in-rural-areas

outcomes. The project will also ensure that women are included fairly in the make-up of technical working groups, training, knowledge exchanges and workshops. The project will also take into considering the need for women-specific training and workshops.

A.5 Risk. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk	Level of Impact	Mitigation Measures
Decision makers do not need better tools and information to improve sustainable land use planning and implement forest landscape restoration	**Low**	The project's theory of change was developed within the activities in the PPG stage with input from country stakeholders based on the root causes and barriers as elaborated in this document. Project steering committee meetings will be conducted regularly to address the Theory of Change and make any changes if necessary.
Tools developed within the scope of this project are not utilized by stakeholders.	**Medium**	Stakeholder engagement is key to successful utilization of the tools developed. The project will continuously consult stakeholders through working groups to ensure that the tools developed are needed and useful and that the data and analyses that the tools are based on are relevant.
Weak coordination among ministerial bodies and lack of support from national governments	**Medium**	It will be critical to foster national governments' ownership from the onset. Practical measures to pre-empt this risk will include the establishment of coordination teams in each country, comprised of government personnel and civil society. To ensure sustainability, measures will be taken to ensure that the government and non-government partners are fully enabled to continue to take full advantage of the web tool after the project cycle has ended.
Sub-optimal capacity in countries hampers sufficient uptake	**Medium**	Existing gaps in capacity in the countries will be identified and a sound and well-designed capacity building program targeting government and non-government partners constitutes a critical element of the project, and will be essential for project success and as the basis for long-term sustainability. A core component of this project is to build the capacity of government and other local stakeholders to make practical use of this data, including through transfer of knowledge, skills, and technology. Key capacities include: • Capacities to generate and aggregate national and subnational datasets pertaining to forest landscapes • Capacities manage data in a centralized digital repository and make data accessible to the public. • Capacities to analyze complex data to generate policy-relevant

		insights.
The needs and priorities of the more disadvantaged groups of society, including youth and women's groups are not adequately taken into account by the project	**Medium**	All aspects of the project's design, implementation strategy and monitoring and evaluation process will closely look at this important aspect and take this risk into account. This will inform the set-up of adequate stakeholder consultation and involvement mechanisms in each country from project outset, with full support from all project partners, and under the auspices and supervision of UNEP as the GEF implementing agency. Continued, focused and well-targeted communication, consultation, education and involvement efforts with local community groups will be implemented in each country.
GFW proves to be insufficiently cost effective in certain uses and contexts	**Low**	Compared to analogous approaches in which an individual country would 'start from scratch', it is estimated that the baseline information and knowledge provided free of charge by the GFW system represents a 50-75% reduction in costs. This represents a first and highly positive example of relative cost effectiveness based on the use of a generic template with global-level information, supported by national-level refinement and validation.
Lack of national-level data would limit the tool's potential effectiveness for many national and local level management challenges, including landscape-level management	**Medium**	The project is limited in scope in that it relies on the input of already existing data and does not have the time nor funding to create new datasets. The initial activities of the project is to collect and organize all existing data into a database, which will then be analyzed for gaps. Gaps will be identified and if needed necessary, the executing partners will support further fundraising efforts to create new data or will work with partners to co-finance data as needed. The infrastructure of the portal, however, will be created in the scope of this project and therefore, once new data is created, it will be easy to input the data into the portal for visualization and use in analyses. The portal is designed so that data can easily be added as new data is created, keeping it up to date and relevant.
Technical working groups are not available to meet regularly	**High**	The project relies highly on a participatory approach and therefore depends on the technical working group to discuss and make major decisions for the technical aspects of the project. To mitigate this risk, the technical working groups will consist of a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that at least some of the group is able to meet regularly. Therefore, not all members will need to be present, making coordination of the groups easier and ensure that the groups will be able to meet regularly.

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination. Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

UN Environment will act as the GEF Implementing Agency. The World Resources Institute (WRI) will act as the Executing Agency for the overall project in collaboration with the REC Caucasus, the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic, the Ministry of

Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Implementation arrangements in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were identified during the national consultation of the Project Preparation Grant phase. National Coordinators, supported by technical experts of the Ministries and guided by the National Steering Committees, in each country will ensure project delivery in coordination with other relevant projects in their countries. Every six months and prior to the annual overall project steering committee meeting, national-level project steering committees will meet and prepare annual reports and forward workplans. National-level project steering committees will be chaired by the respective Ministry Partners. The Executing Agency will conclude sub-grants with the executing partners. Sub-grant agreements will be based on, and incorporate, the national budgets (see Annex H-1), which already define spending allocations under each of these subgrants.

With UN Environment serving as the project's Implementing Agency and on the Project Steering Committee, UN Environment will be in a position to ensure that appropriate linkages and coordination are maintained with relevant programs of the GEF as well as other UN agencies, the UN Environment Finance Initiative, the UN REDD Program, and with global environmental conventions such as UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD. The project is fully in line with the UN Environment role of catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. The Project objective is aligned with UN Environment's Program of Work and will contribute to Environmental Governance Subprogramme's expected accomplishment (b) 'Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals'. UN Environment provides guidance on relating the GEF financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements. More specifically, the project lies within the following areas recognized by GEF as areas where UN Environment has a comparative advantage:

- Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers, notably by strengthening science-to-policy linkages and by strengthening environmental monitoring and assessment;
- Technical assistance and capacity building at the country level, notably by strengthening technology assessment, by demonstration and through innovation, and also by directly developing capacity;
- Knowledge management, including through awareness-raising and advocacy.

The roles of the Executing agency and the Implementing agency are further clarified in Annex J Project Implementation Arrangements.

Project management and technical support

WRI will assign a project manager and part-time technical experts at its headquarters, who will be responsible for overall project management on behalf of the executing agency and provide technical support. For this purpose, they will maintain close contact with the respective national coordinators and staff in each country.

With support from WRI, the executing partners in each country will identify and recruit national coordinators and technical experts for each country. The national coordinators will support execution of outputs and activities outlined in the project document, whereas technical experts will lead implementation of key technical components of the work, including data platform development.

Steering Committees

The project will build on the existing and effective coordination mechanisms established as part of the GFW partnership, which is convened and managed by WRI. Annual GFW Partnership meetings will be attended by a representative of each of the countries, as well as a UN Environment representative (UN Environment is also a GFW

Partner). Country representatives will be asked to provide brief reports to the Partners' meeting on country-level progress, lessons learned, etc.

The project steering committee will be comprised of representatives of the executing agency and all executing partners, the GEF Implementing Agency (UN Environment), and select technical experts from agencies not directly connected with the project. The project steering committee will focus on issues associated with the project under the logical framework and will provide advice and oversight on the project's progress towards meeting its expected outcomes and outputs.

UN Environment will contribute to ensuring that appropriate linkages and coordination is maintained with relevant programs of all other relevant UN agencies, such as the UN REDD programs, the UN Finance Initiative, the UNDP-UN Environment Poverty and Environment Initiative, as well as with global environmental conventions and particularly with CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and IPBES. UN Environment and WRI have a long and successful history of productive partnership.

Country level

Prior to the above annual overall project steering committee meeting, national-level project steering committees will have met and prepared annual reports and forward workplans. National-level project steering committees will be chaired by the respective Government partner in each country. WRI will also act as a member of the national project steering committees.

Other committees

As described under project output 2.1.1, output 2.2.1, and output 2.3.1, national multi-sectoral technical working groups will be established to ensure operational transparency and effective management, especially in regards to the latest remote sensing information, needed data, and long-term sustainability of the project. The technical working groups will hold quarterly meetings and will include experts in various relevant fields as well as champions of the project. The technical working groups will address specific technical challenges related to data and will be involved in the development of any new key datasets created for the project. The technical working groups will be encouraged to communicate regularly regarding known uncertainty levels and limitations related to specific data used within the scope of the project. Finally, various workshops will convene relevant stakeholders to address questions and concerns about specific datasets and associated methodologies, including data scientists, forestry practitioners, and media.

Planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives:

The project will build on and coordinate with the following on-going projects:

Georgia: "Global Forest Watch," a 3 year project ($1,554,634) is currently being implemented with an objective of the development of a national decision support tool to support improved management of existing forest areas and conservation of biodiversity, reforestation, afforestation programs, improved control of deforestation and on-the-ground monitoring/protection of carbon stocks. This project will build off the output and lessons learned in Georgia to replicate the development and implementation of GFW on a national scale. This project will also fill one of the gaps of the Global Forest Watch project in Georgia by adding a restoration component to inspire the fulfilment of restoration commitments.

Currently, the Regional Environmental Centre for Caucasus (RECC) is executing the UNEP-GEF project "Applying Landscape and Sustainable Land Management (L-SLM) for mitigating land degradation and contributing to poverty reduction in rural areas" The objective of this project is to support the integration of good Landscape and Sustainable Land Management (L-SLM) principles and practices into national policies and institutional frameworks to ensure adoption of economically viable practices by rural communities. In addition, the Project titled "Generating economic and environmental benefits from sustainable land management for vulnerable rural communities of Georgia" aims to develop and strengthen sustainable land management (SLM) practices and build capacity at municipal scale for their application for the protection of natural capital in Georgia. Both projects will reduce land degradation by building capacity around best practices in sustainable land management.

The UNDP-GEF project "Harmonization of Information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the Global environment in Georgia" implemented by the Environmental Education Centre, is intended to develop capacities in Georgia for an effective national environmental management framework that addresses different articles under the UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD. The project objective is to develop individual and organizational capacities in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia and the Environmental Education Centre for improved monitoring of environmental impacts and trends and for elaboration of collaborative environmental management. The project will provide valuable baseline information and jointly promote improved knowledge sharing and institutional capacities for information management.

Armenia: Armenia has several ongoing projects that focus on reforestation and maintaining biological diversity. It currently has 2 ongoing GEF projects. The first is "Sustainable Land Management for Increased Productivity in Armenia(SLMIP)," which runs for 6 years ($3,937,500) and aims to enhance the overall resilience of rural communities living in risk-prone areas of Armenia by investing in sustainable farming, community-led restoration, and capacity building of farmers. The second is "Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Dry Mountain Landscapes," which is a 4 year project ($2,977,169) that will run until January 2020 and aims to enhance sustainable land and forest management in the northeast Armenia to secure continued flow of multiple ecosystem services. The project aims to do this by addressing barriers of inadequate planning, regulatory and institutional framework for integrated forest resource management, and the limited experience among key government and civil society stakeholders in developing and implementing sustainable forest management practices on the ground.

Past GEF supported projects include "Harmonization of National Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Armenia and Preparation of National Report," which was a 1.5 year project ($190,000) to review the national action plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Armenia and elaborate the 2012 National Report on the implementation of UNCCD in Armenia. The follow up of this project is "GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process – Umbrella II" and the next is "Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD" which is a project to develop the national report to CBD. In addition, "Generate Global Environmental Benefits through Environmental Education and Raising Awareness of Stakeholders" was a 3 year project ($750,000) to strengthen capacity by using environmental education and awareness raising as tools to address natural resource management issues.

Azerbaijan: GEF supported "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Important Agro-biodiversity" runs over 5 years ($4,160,502) and aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of globally threatened crop varieties important for biodiversity, food security, and sustainable land management. Additionally, the project "Forest Resources Assessment and Monitoring to Strengthen Forest Knowledge Framework in Azerbaijan" runs until March 2019 ($1,776,484) and its objective is to introduce sustainable forest management practices in Azerbaijan to increase the social and economic benefits from forests and to improve the quality of existing forests and increase carbon sequestration. The project will also support implementation of Azerbaijan's draft National Forest Policy and its

commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including restoration and afforestation activities.

The project "Forest Resources Assessment and Monitoring to Strengthen Forest Knowledge Framework in Azerbaijan," runs from 2017-2019 ($8,776,484) and its objective is to introduce sustainable forest management into Azerbaijan in order to increase social and economic benefits from forests, to improve the quality of existing forests and to increase carbon sequestration. In the framework of the project it is aimed to support to the development of a system to provide country-wide reliable, up-to-date information on forest resources, forestry related elements and their participatory assessment under globally accepted criteria, as well revitalize the forest management planning system. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is the project lead implementing partner. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the GEF Agency responsible for monitoring and providing technical backstopping during project implementation.

Past GEF supported projects include "Sustainable Land and Forest Management in the Greater Caucasus Landscape" ($5,680,000), which enabled policy for integrating sustainable land and forest management practices into state programs including reducing degradation from overgrazing and enhancing the carbon storage potentials of forests and pasturelands. In addition, "National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan," which lasted 3 years ($210,000) and integrated Azerbaijan's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) into its national development and sectoral framework planning.

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7 *Benefits.* Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The stated project goal is to empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses. The new tools developed will provide information to create momentum to existing strategic measures in the South Caucasus including a restoration strategy to achieve targets already committed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and the potential to expand these targets through identification of additional areas with potential for forest restoration. Knowledge-building among decision makers in the South Caucasus will help raise awareness of the necessity to enhance national forest governance for the delivery of national development strategies, and of the Sustainable Development Goals, by providing examples of how forest conservation can become a source of prosperity if restoration goals are successfully achieved.

By improving access to information, decision-makers can develop a more integrated, systemic approach for forest management, and an awareness of how an increase in forest cover and flora biodiversity can improve ecosystem services and lead to great economic prosperity. Greater access to information combined with the technical support through the creation of new tools, could subsequently inform other legislative work (e.g. pushing for policy improvements within the forestry sector, strategic implementation and better enforcement of laws).

Currently, forest governance of all three project countries suffers from shared problems including lack of transparency and accountability, and limited human, technical and financial capacities leading to weak enforcement capacity. A better understanding current state of forests, through better access to key information such as forest and land cover dynamics, land use, and biodiversity, can enhance national forest governance and help legislators push for incremental improvements across this range of challenges.

Socioeconomic benefits associated with the project includes:

- Transparency in forest allocation, forest cover and forest change will promote a more level playing field for non-governmental entities, facilitating empowerment of communities to be able to exercise their rights over forest-based natural resources and to participate in decisions affecting local land-use and development.

- Access to improved information on land-use allocation, forest cover and forest change will enable CSOs and communities to better monitor use of forest resources by the government, private sector or other actors – ensuring better accountability.

- Improved conservation of riparian forests and overall improved watershed management will primarily benefit poorer members of society through increased access to water resources.

- Assessing and detecting threats to protected areas by fire or deforestation coupled with improved law enforcement keeps ecosystems functioning in protected areas, which will enable flow of ecosystem services which are inputs into household production and thus an important asset held by the rural poor. Healthy functioning ecosystem will also help maintain tourism which will create additional income streams in the region.

- By assessing current levels of logging and deforestation, production can be better regulated at a lower cost of access to information; therefore, production forests can be certified and get higher prices for their products.

- Early detection of potentially large forest fires can prevent or mitigate possible loss of lives and livelihoods thereby enhance livelihood security.

- Clear understanding of forest types, and their rate of change is major input for land use planning and forest planning to enhance resilience and ensure long-term income and ecosystem services for creating wealth and enhancing human well-being.

- The possibility to quantify carbon is a first step to monitor, report, and verify carbon stocks of forest which may lead and access international or national funds to keep forests and reward communities for their efforts to sustainably manage forest.

- Reforested land can reap carbon and ecosystem benefits; by introducing trees into the landscape, agricultural production can be improved which will enhance food security and carbon finance may be obtained for local communities.

A.8 *Knowledge Management.* Elaborate on the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

The sharing of knowledge and the dissemination of information is one of the principal activities to support the achievement of the project outcomes and interventions at the national level. Through its technical working groups, the project will facilitate a knowledge network that brings together government agencies and civil society organizations that are engaged with engaged with forestry, land use, and restoration to learn from ongoing initiatives, share experiences, and participate in the documentation of methods and decisions. Frequent multi-sectoral engagement including workshops, trainings, and regular meetings will help ensure that experiences and expertise is shared amongst a wide range of stakeholders. Information will be shared in the form of meeting notes, technical notes, blog posts, infographics

and printed media. All documentation will be disseminated to stakeholders and will be freely available on the web-portal in local languages.

This project is an upscaling of the GEF-funded "Global Forest Watch" project, which is implemented on a global scale with pilot countries in Georgia and Madagascar. Because the approach in Armenia and Azerbaijan is similar to the approach taken in Georgia, there is ample opportunity from the countries to learn from Georgia's experience. Regional steering committees, held yearly, will facilitate cooperation and opportunities for experience sharing on a across countries. In addition, there is opportunity for the countries to participate in regional and global capacity building measures to learn from others' experiences who are using the same technology. Participants from each country will have the opportunity to attend the GFW User Summit, a yearly event that hosts participants from around the world who have used GFW products and tools for forest monitoring.

Although the Risk of "weak coordination among ministerial bodies and lack of support form national governments" were considered 'HIGH' at the PIF stage, we observed during the PPG phase that the project is fully supported by the governments of all 3 South Caucasus countries. During the project development stage all country stakeholders, including a wide range of ministerial bodies within national governments, were consulted and have provided input on project concept and design. The project is built on a participatory approach, and strong coordination of stakeholders is an integral part of coordination. During the inception workshop, stakeholders worked in groups to develop project activities and address any weaknesses that may be in the PIF. Inputs were taken into consideration, and during the validation workshop, all stakeholders reviewed the project documents to confirm that their inputs were taken into consideration and confirm support. Therefore, the PPG phase demonstrated that the ownership and coordination risk is not high in any of the pilot country. We amended the risk level to Medium and we will ensure sustainability by enabling the government and non-government partners to take full advantage of the web tool with trainings and use case demonstrations. In addition, the project is built on a larger GFW network and system that will help it achieve success and ensure sustainability. Partners will meet regularly to steer the direction of the project, which is detailed in Component 2 of the project framework, and decisions will be made collectively through a set of working groups. This project is building on previous experience on Georgia, which proved to be successful. For example, as in the case in Georgia, any costs that may be ongoing (i.e. software) will first be discussed with the relevant Ministries to ensure support or else other solutions may be found (open source software). Component 2 (working groups and capacity building) is a large part of this project and its implementation is important to ensure sustainability.

This project aims to do more than monitor forests, but will also integrate restoration strategy and analysis functions. While Global Forest Watch provides data on forest cover and dynamics, Resource Watch provides a wider variety of data on other relevant issues such as water, agriculture, and energy. This data, if best available for the South Caucasus countries, will be integrated into the restoration analysis and will be available for visualization on the atlases developed.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 *Consistency with National Priorities.* Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessements under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.:

The project is aligned with national priorities in all three South Caucasus countries:

Armenia:
1. National development plans/strategies.
Armenia's Development Strategy for 2014-2025[21]. Among environmental risks, the Strategy points to *illegal forest logging* resulting from higher gas prices and *increased desertification risk*. Planned measures to mitigate the above risks

[21] Armenia's Development Strategy for 2014-2025 (2014) / Approved by the Governmental Decree of the Republic of Armenia #442 of 27 March, 2014.
https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/armenia_development_strategy_for_2014-2025.pdf

include: (a) development and use financial and institutional mechanisms for restoration (re-cultivation) of degraded lands; (b) development and implementation of the National Forest Programme with emphasis on forest plantation and restoration measures; and (c) improvement of an environmental monitoring system in order to ensure application of unified monitoring approaches and standards, and collection of reliable information on the ecological situation as well as statistical data from other sources.

2. Environment action plans/strategies.

The Second National Environmental Action Programme of the Republic of Armenia (NEAP) provides an overall framework for integrated environmental management. The NEAP highlights problems in Armenia's forest ecosystems related to degradation and the destruction of forests. It notes that conservation and the sustainable use of forest resources is considered to be one of the main priorities of the state. The Strategy prioritizes the restoration of forested areas and sustainable forest use.

3. Forest programmes/strategies and Biodiversity strategies/action plans.

Strategy and National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia on Conservation, Protection, Reproduction and Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020 (NBSAP)[22] is the main biodiversity policy document. The plan addresses the underlying cause of biodiversity loss and comprises actions that target to reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. One of the strategic directions of the NPSAP-2 (*Strategic Direction 2. Enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and restoration of degraded habitats*) includes the measures to develop the inventory and map of the degraded and fragmented forest and pasture ecosystems, and identify direct and indirect causes of habitat loss.

Bonn Challenge Pledge (2018) In June 2018, Armenia attended the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration with other decision makers from the Caucasus and Central Asia to discuss challenges, identify solutions and enhance commitments towards forest landscape restoration. At the roundtable, Armenia aligned its national efforts to regional efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia and made a commitment to restore 260,000 hectares by 2030. During the Roundtable, Armenia also signed the **Astana Resolution**, which emphasized the importance of forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge and further committed the region's nations to strengthen partnerships and cooperate to meet their goals.

4. United Nations Development Assistance

Armenia-United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2016-2020) The Project will contribute to the following outputs of UN Programme: (i) Provide policy advice and advocacy to strengthen the links between sustainable environment, disaster risk management and economic development and enhance national capacities to fulfil commitments under ratified multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); (ii) Assist the country to strengthen the capacity to develop national action plan for the forest sector in green economy, national accountability system for the sustainable forest management through the system for evaluation of the management of forests (SEMAFOR).

Azerbaijan:

1. National development plans/strategies.

Development Concept "Azerbaijan - 2020: The Vision of the Future"[23]. The main strategic view of the concept is to understand current opportunities and resources and attain sustainable economic growth. One of the main targets is to achieve sustainable socio-economic development from an ecological point of view. Chapter 11. Environmental protection and ecological issues addresses that the necessary measures must be taken to protect biodiversity, restore

[22] Strategy and National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia on Conservation, Protection, Reproduction and Use of Biological Diversity for 2016-2020 (2015) // Approved at the Session of the Governmentof the Republic of Armenia No.54-10 on 10 December 2015. https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/am/am-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

[23] Development Concept "Azerbaijan – 2020: The Vision of the Future" (2012) / Approved by the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic of December 29, 2012.
http://www.undp.org/content/dam/azerbaijan/docs/sustain_development/AZ_Vision2020_government_draft_en.pdf

green areas and effectively protect the existing natural resources. An increase of forested and road-protecting green areas are recognized as priority actions in the sphere of creating and restoring forests.

2. Environment action plans/strategies.

National Environmental Action Plan - Azarbaijan (NEAP) identifies the threats to loss of biodiversity and loss of forest cover. The plan emphasizes the urgent need for reforestation due to forest fragmentation and heavy forest loss from illegal logging. The State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development (SPPRSD) also addresses the environmental concerns.

Second Environmental Performance Review – Azerbaijan (EPR)[24]. The Second Environmental Performance Review for Azerbaijan was prepared in 2011 by the UNECE. Preventing of illegal logging and other types of deforestation in the forests, as well as *designing and planting of fast-growing forest plantations* that meet the needs of new planting systems to rehabilitate forests are found to be priorities in the sphere of forest management of the Review. The ERP recommends developing a national forestry programme to increase forest area. In the sphere of monitoring and data gathering, the ERP (*Chapter 3: Monitoring, information, public participation and education*) recommends *developing and regularly updating a modern electronic database.*

3. Forest programmes/strategies and biodiversity strategies/action plans.

The National Forest Policy and Action Plan was developed in 2013 according to sustainable forest management principles with support of FAO, but has not been approved yet.

National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2017-2020 (NBSAP)[25] **promotes the following** forest related actions: Activity 6.3.1.2. Preparation of action plans on *rehabilitation and restoration of forest areas*; Activity 6.3.1.6. Implementation of up to date methodologies for *inventory and monitoring of forested areas*; Activity 6.8.1.1. Defining opportunities and developing proposals for *cooperation between governmental organizations in biodiversity conservation - including: afforestation*; preventing forest fires and establishing early warning systems.

4. United Nations Development Assistance

United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (2016-2020) The Project will contribute to the following outputs of UN Programme: (i) Outcome 3.1: By 2020, sustainable development policies and legislation are in place, are better implemented and coordinated in compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, recognize social and health linkages, and address issues of environment and natural resource management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, climate change, and resilience to hazards and disasters; (ii) Strengthening the national capacity of counties to develop accountability systems for sustainable forest management.

Georgia:

1. National development plans/strategies.

Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia - GEORGIA 2020[26] **promotes** rational use of natural resources, ensuring environmental safety and sustainability. The Strategy encourages the transfer and introduction of *innovative activities and modern technologies* both at the national and regional levels. The strategy promotes the introduction of

[24] Environmental Performance Review - Azerbaijan (2011) / Second Review // Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 31, ECE/CEP/158, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2011.
http://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/sites/default/files/downloads/resource/UNECE%20Environmental%20Performance%20Reviews_Azerbaijan%202011%20%282nd%20cycle%29.pdf

[25] National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2017-2020 / Approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of Ocober 3, 2016 On Approval of "National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2017-2020".
https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/az/az-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

[26] Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia - GEORGIA 2020. Approved by the Decree of the Government of Georgia #400, of 17 June, 2014. http://www.mrdi.gov.ge/sites/default/files/social-economic_development_strategy_of_georgia_georgia_2020.pdf

environmentally-friendly technologies and the development of a *green economy*, and highlights the importance of the *protection of forests and implementation of sustainable management practices*.

EU-Georgia Association Agreement: Integration into the European Union is the cornerstone of Georgia's foreign and internal policy. Under the EU Agreement, Georgia recognizes the importance of ensuring the conservation and the sustainable management of forests and of forests' contribution to Georgia's economic, environmental and social objectives.

2. Environment action plans/strategies.

Second National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP)[27]. The Second National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia still plays the role as a main environmental policy and strategic document and the third NEAP is currently being developed although a draft is not yet available to the public. The *development and testing of forest information and monitoring systems*) is one of the priorities.

Third Environmental Performance Review – Georgia (EPR-2016)[28]. The Third EPR highlights that *effective monitoring of the state of forests* is crucial, to support the implementation of *sustainable and multipurpose forest management principles and practices*.

3. Forest programmes/strategies and Biodiversity strategies/action plans.

National Forest Concept of Georgia[29] is the forest policy document of the country and it promotes *forest planning* with mechanisms for involving stakeholders in the preparation of forest management plans.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia for 2014 - 2020 (NBSAP)[30] ensures protection and rehabilitation of unique eco-systems, diversity of species and genetic resources of Georgia through sustainable use and management of biological resources and an equitable distribution of the benefits. The NBSAP includes preparation of inventories, assessments and planning for forest landscape restoration.

Bonn Challenge Pledge (2018) In June 2018, Georgia attended the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration with other decision makers from the Caucasus and Central Asia to discuss challenges, identify solutions and enhance commitments towards forest landscape restoration. At the roundtable, Georgia aligned its national efforts to regional efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia and made a commitment to restore 10,000 hectares by 2030. During the Roundtable, Armenia also signed the **Astana Resolution**, which emphasized the importance of forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge and further committed the region's nations to strengthen partnerships and cooperate to meet their goals.

4. United Nations Development Assistance

United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development (2016-2020) The Project will contribute to the following outputs of UN Programme: (i) Outcome 8 By 2020 communities enjoy greater resilience through enhanced institutional and legislative systems for environment protection, sustainable management of natural resources and disaster risk

[27] National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia for 2012 – 2016 (2012) / Chapter 7 - Forestry // Approved by the Government of Georgia - Ordinance #127 of January 24, 2012. https://www.preventionweb.net/files/28719_neap2.eng.pdf

[28] Environmental Performance Review - Georgia (2016) / Third Review // Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 31, ECE/CEP/177, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2016. http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/ECE_CEP_177.pdf

[29] National Forest Concept of Georgia (2013) // Approved by the Parliament of Georgia, Resolution of 11 December, 2013 (1742-Is) / Official web-page of the Legislative Herald of Georgia (*matsne.gov.ge*), 25/12/2013. https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/2157869 http://w3.cenn.org/wssl/uploads/home/National%20forest%20policy%20for%20georgia%20(ENG).pdf

[30] National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia 2014 - 2020 (2014) // Approved by the Government of Georgia - Decree No.343, of 8 May, 2014 "On adoption of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2014–2020". https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

reduction; (ii) The UN system will provide support in sustainable forest management (including the system for evaluation of the management of forests SEMAFOR).

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

Please see Annex I for budgeted M&E plan.

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[31] and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Kelly West, PhD Global Environment Facility Coordinator			Ersin Esen	+41-22-917 8196	Ersin.Esen@un.org

Annexes (included in this document)

Annex A: Project Results Framework
Annex B: Responses to Project Reviews (N/A)
Annex C: Status of Implementation of Project Preparation Activities and the Use of Funds
Annex D: Calendar of Expected Reflows (N/A)
Annex E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet
Annex F: GEF Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Other Annexes (submitted along with this document but as separate MS Word and Excel files)

Annex G: Work plan and timetable
Annex H1: Detailed GEF budget by UNEP budget lines
Annex H2: Co-financing by source and UNEP budget lines
Annex I: Costed M&E Plan
Annex J: Project Implementation Arrangements
Annex K: Key Deliverables and Benchmarks
Annex L: Endorsement Letter
Annex M: Environmental Social and Economic Review Note
Annex N: Summary of reporting requirements and responsibilities
Annex O: TORs for PSC and Key Personnel
Annex P: Procurement Plan
Annex Q: Acronyms and abbreviations
Annex R: Co-financing Commitment Letters
Annex S: Theory of Change

[31] GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: Empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses				
Component 1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information				
Outcome 1.1: Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Armenia**				
Number of documented decisions on land-use made that have been influenced by the use of GFW tools and knowledge products	0	Mid-term: Concept note on use cases validated by the stakeholders End of project: 2	Interviews with stakeholders & use case tracking tool	Removing barriers to WRI developed tools use is within the scope of our work Better tools and information are what decision makers need for improved sustainable land-use planning and to implement forest landscape restoration
Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities using tool	0	Mid-term: Draft restoration opportunities map is ready for consultation with the stakeholders End of project: 260,000 Ha	WRI produced maps and analysis tools	
Number of good practices documented on the use of GFW tools to improve women's	0	Miderm: 3	Use case tracking tool and policy documents	

participation in decision making		End of project: 5		
1.1.1 Stakeholder mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Armenia 1.1.2. Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Armenia 1.1.3 Restoration Opportunity Mapping that quantifies the area of opportunity in Armenia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested and applied 1.1.4. Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and land use planning				
Outcome 1.2: Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Azerbaijan**				
Number of documented decisions on land-use made that have been influenced by the use of GFW tools and knowledge products documented	0	Mid-term: Concept note on use cases validated by the stakeholders End of project: 2	Interviews with stakeholders & use case tracking tool	Removing barriers to WRI developed tools use is within the scope of our work
Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities using tool	0 Ha	Mid-term: Draft restoration opportunities map is ready for consultation with the stakeholders End if project: 71,000 Ha	WRI produced maps and analysis tools	Better tools and information are what decision makers need for improved sustainable land-use planning and to implement forest landscape restoration
Number of good practices documented on the use of GFW tools to improve women's participation in decision making	0	Miderm: 3 End of project: 5		

1.2.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan 1.2.2 Creation of an interactive forest portal including development of ready-to-use analyses to improve and more easily share forest information in Azerbaijan 1.2.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Azerbaijan based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied 1.2.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration planning				
Outcome 1.3: Enable improved forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Georgia**				
Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities using tool	0 Ha	Mid-term: Draft restoration opportunities map is ready for consultation with the stakeholders End of project: 10,000 Ha	WRI produced maps and analysis tools	Removing barriers to WRI developed tools use is within the scope of our work Better tools and information are what decision makers need for improved implementation of forest landscape restoration
Output 1.3.1: A Restoration Opportunity Mapping that quantifies the area of opportunity in Georgia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested and applied in Georgia				
Component 2: Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions				
Outcome 2.1: Stakeholders in Armenia capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs				
Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools	0	Mid-term: 3 End of project: 10	WRI produced maps and analysis tools	Identification of incentives to encourage wide participation in and contribution to the GFW platform.
Output 2.1.1: Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project in Armenia Output 2.1.2: Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization in Armenia				
Outcome 2.2: Stakeholders in Azerbaijan capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs				

Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools	0	Mid-term: 3 End of project: 10	WRI produced maps and analysis tools	Identification of incentives to encourage wide participation in and contribution to the GFW platform.
Output 2.2.1: Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project in Azerbaijan Output 2.2.2: Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization in Azerbaijan				
Outcome 2.3: Stakeholders in Georgia capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs				
Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools	0	Mid-term: 3 End of project: 10	WRI produced maps and analysis tools	Identification of incentives to encourage wide participation in and contribution to the GFW platform.
Output 2.3.1: Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project in Georgia Output 2.3.2: Training and outreach on use of restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization in Georgia				

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF secretariat comments	Response
2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs? Not fully. While from a technical perspective the design is adequate, the project's implementation arrangements, as described, are not. The arrangement create the impression that the executing agency is the main beneficiary and that the GEF resources beyond the usual project management costs (PMC) will be used to fund executing agency staff. Please clarify and revise the section accordingly.	We clarified how the country partners benefit and co-execute the project in 'A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination'. And Annex J. The implementation arrangement now reads as: UN Environment will act as the GEF Implementing Agency. The World Resources Institute (WRI) will act as the Executing Agency for the overall project *in collaboration with the REC Caucasus, the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Implementation arrangements in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were identified during the national consultation of the Project Preparation Grant phase. National Coordinators, supported by technical experts of the Ministries and guided by the National Steering Committees, in each country will ensure project delivery in coordination with other relevant projects in their countries. Every six months and prior to the annual overall project steering committee meeting, national-level project steering committees will meet and prepare annual reports and forward workplans. National-level project steering committees will be chaired by the respective Ministry Partners. The Executing Agency will conclude sub-grants with the executing partners. Sub-grant agreements will be based on, and incorporate, the national budgets (see Annex H-1), which already define spending allocations under each of these subgrants.* Furthermore, the budget allocated to WRI staff and the travel have been reduced by 36% from USD 347,922 to USD 228,122 (see Annex H1 for the revised budget). All WRI staff proposed to be covered by this grant will be crucial to the success of this GFW project in the Caucasus region. Additional justification is provided below for the needed WRI staff: Project Manager: Building from the accomplishments in Georgia from GEF 5, the role of the Project Manager will be especially critical. The Project Manager's combination of expertise building forest atlases, regional experience, and role in similar projects including Georgia will be key to making sure this project runs smoothly. Central technical support is needed to ensure the successful use and adoption of GFW, which is managed by WRI, to its fullest potential.

	GIS Analyst and Technical Staff: Technical support from WRI is key in order to achieve the capacity building goal of this grant. WRI plans to have the same Technical Manager who has worked on GEF 5 in Georgia continue to provide training to stakeholders in this project to build the atlases. To ensure for efficient, hands-on, and dedicated training and ongoing platform troubleshooting, the Technical staff and GIS Analyst will need to have some time dedicated to this grant, therefore hours are included. Again, the combination of technical, regional, and project-specific expertise will be key in ensuring that all regional stakeholders are property trained and that the platforms operate as needed.
3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective? Not fully. Based on the information provided, it cannot be assessed whether the approach is cost-effective. The procurement plan presented in the supporting document does not account for the entire GEF grant, it only covers $576,000. Please present a budget breakdown for the entire GEF grant. Annexes referred to in the supporting document are missing: Annex H1: Detailed GEF budget by UNEP budget lines Annex H2: Co-financing by source and UNEP budget lines	Annex H1 provides details of the global and the national budgets. Annex H1 and H2 have been included in the Project Annexes.
5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided? Discrepancy found: The portal entry for WRI is $1 million but the supporting document and the letter refer to $2 million.	The co-finance contribution of WRI is USD2 million. We corrected the portal entry.

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed? Please clarify if the project will submit a GEF-6 BD tracking tool? The project has indicated Rio Marker 2 for Climate Change Mitigation and Climate Change adaptation. Please clarify, this appears incorrect for a Biodiversity funded project. Further, if projects indicates climate change objectives as their main objective, GEF would expect GHG emission reduction estimates in the core indicators table. Please also clarify how the extremely large area of improved management of 2.5 million ha can be justified (see core indicators table). GEF is only tracking direct and attributable results under this indicator.	As per the GEF Policy instruction (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.02 /Box 2), we won't submit the tracking tool. We corrected and removed Rio Marker 2 indicator. 2.5 million ha is the indirect forest area that will benefit from the developed tools. Therefore, we removed this indicator. Given the size and the nature of the project, we recommend only reporting on Indicator 11: 'the direct beneficiary of the project'.
10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan? Yes. However, the KM plan needs to be elaborated with a view to address issues of sustainability of the approach and the application of the GFW platform in the countries. Please refer to GEFSEC comments made on the issue of sustainability at PIF stage.	Based on the PPG processes, we revisited the sustainability and ownership in the KM section. The following two paragraphs included: Although the Risk of "weak coordination among ministerial bodies and lack of support form national governments" were considered 'HIGH' at the PIF stage, we observed during the PPG phase that the project is fully supported by the governments of all 3 South Caucasus countries. During the project development stage all country stakeholders, including a wide range of ministerial bodies within national governments, were consulted and have provided input on project concept and design. The project is built on a participatory approach, and strong coordination of stakeholders is an integral part of coordination. During the inception workshop, stakeholders worked in groups to develop project activities and address any weaknesses that may be in the PIF. Inputs were taken into consideration, and during the validation workshop, all stakeholders reviewed the project documents to confirm that their inputs were taken into consideration and confirm support. Therefore, the PPG phase demonstrated that the ownership and coordination risk is not high in any of the pilot country. We amended the risk level to Medium and we will ensure sustainability by enabling the government and non-government partners to take full advantage of the web tool with trainings and use case demonstrations. In addition, the project is built on a larger GFW network and system that will help it achieve success and ensure sustainability. Partners will meet regularly to steer the direction of the project, which is detailed in Component 2 of the project framework, and decisions will be made collectively through a set of working groups. This project is building on previous

	experience on Georgia, which proved to be successful. For example, as in the case in Georgia, any costs that may be ongoing (i.e. software) will first be discussed with the relevant Ministries to ensure support or else other solutions may be found (open source software). Component 2 (working groups and capacity building) is a large part of this project and its implementation is important to ensure sustainability. This project aims to do more than monitor forests, but will also integrate restoration strategy and analysis functions. While Global Forest Watch provides data on forest cover and dynamics, Resource Watch provides a wider variety of data on other relevant issues such as water, agriculture, and energy. This data, if best available for the South Caucasus countries, will be integrated into the restoration analysis and will be available for visualization on the atlases developed.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS[32]

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **27,399**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent Todate***	***Amount Committed***
Project Personnel	15,418	15,418	
Subcontracts	5,528	5,528	
Meetings	5,151	5,151	
Miscellaneous	1,302	1,302	
Total	27,399	27,399	

[32] If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used**)**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

Not Applicable

Annex E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table E to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Core Indicator 1	**Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**						***(Hectares)***
			Hectares (1.1+1.2)				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Indicator 1.1	Terrestrial protected areas newly created						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Indicator 1.2	Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline		Achieved	
					Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Core Indicator 2	**Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**						***(Hectares)***
			Hectares (2.1+2.2)				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	*TE*	
Indicator 2.1	Marine protected areas newly created						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Indicator 2.2	Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score (Scale 1-3)			
				Baseline		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Core Indicator 3	**Area of land restored**						***(Hectares)***
			Hectares (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Indicator 3.1	Area of degraded agricultural land restored						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Indicator 3.2	Area of forest and forest land restored						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		

			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 3.3	Area of natural grass and shrublands restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 3.4	Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 4	**Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**					***(Hectares)***
			Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4)			
			Expected		Expected	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.4	Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 5	**Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity**					***(Hectares)***
Indicator 5.1	Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 5.2	Number of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollution and hypoxial					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 6	**Greenhouse gas emission mitigated**					***(Tons)***
			Tons (6.1+6.2)			
			Entered		Entered	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Expected CO2e (direct)					
	Expected CO2e (indirect)					
Indicator 6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector					
			Tons			
			Entered		Entered	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Expected CO2e (direct)					
	Expected CO2e (indirect)					
	Anticipated Year					
Indicator 6.2	Emissions avoided					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Expected CO2e (direct)					
	Expected CO2e (indirect)					
	Anticipated Year					
Indicator 6.3	Energy saved					
			MJ			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 6.4	Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology					
		Technology	Capacity (MW)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)				
		(select)				
Core Indicator 7	**Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management**					***(Number)***
Indicator 7.1	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.2	Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.3	Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.4	Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			Rating		Rating	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 8	**Globally over-exploited fisheries Moved to more sustainable levels**					***(Tons)***
			Metric Tons			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 9	**Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products**					***(Tons)***
			Metric Tons (9.1+9.2+9.3)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	PIF stage	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.1	Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and POPs containing materials and products removed or disposed					
POPs type			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				
Indicator 9.2	Quantity of mercury reduced					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.3	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.4	Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities					
		Technology	Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 10	**Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources**					***(Grams)***
Indicator 10.1	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 10.2	Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 10.3	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Core Indicator 11	**Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**					***(Number)***
					Number Achieved	
				PIF	MTR	TE
			Female			
			Azerbaijan	350		
			Armenia	200		
			Georgia	500		

			Male	3,100 2,000 4,100		
			Total	*10,250*		

The area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) in Ha was determined by calculating the sum of tree cover, with data developed by University of Maryland (Hansen, 2010), in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. The area (in Ha) of protected areas within the forested areas was the deducted from the sum of forested areas.

The number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment was determined by calculating the number of employees, disaggregated by gender, in the relevant ministries, departments and agencies for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

In addition, this project contributes to the fulfillment of Aichi Target 5 (loss of natural habitats including forests). Global Forest Watch will monitor and independently verify the rate of loss of natural forest habitats, and monitor trends in forest degradation and fragmentation, supporting forest conservation and law enforcement measures that reduce rates of forest loss and degradation. GFW provides an essential management tool to enhance the conservation effectiveness of existing protected areas, as well as monitor habitats of unprotected areas, including the trends of habitats hosting globally important biodiversity.

Annex F: GEF Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part I, item F by ticking the most relevant keywords/ topics/themes that best describe this project.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
☒ **Influencing models**			
	☒ **Transform policy and regulatory environments**		
	☒ **Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making**		
	☐ **Convene multi-stakeholder alliances**		
	☐ **Demonstrate innovative approaches**		
	☐ **Deploy innovative financial instruments**		
☒ **Stakeholders**			
	☐ **Indigenous Peoples**		
	☐ **Private Sector**		
		☐ Capital providers	
		☐ Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		☐ Large corporations	
		☐ SMEs	
		☐ Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		☐ Non-Grant Pilot	
		☐ Project Reflow	
	☒ **Beneficiaries**		
	☒ **Local Communities**		
	☒ **Civil Society**		
		☐ Community Based Organization	
		☒ Non-Governmental Organization	
		☒ Academia	
		☐ Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	☒ **Type of Engagement**		
		☒ Information Dissemination	
		☒ Partnership	
		☐ Consultation	
		☐ Participation	
	☐ **Communications**		
		☐ Awareness Raising	
		☐ Education	
		☐ Public Campaigns	
		☐ Behavior Change	
☒ **Capacity, Knowledge and Research**			
	☒ **Enabling Activities**		
	☒ **Capacity Development**		
	☒ **Knowledge Generation and Exchange**		
	☐ **Targeted Research**		
	☐ **Learning**		
		☐ Theory of Change	
		☐ Adaptive Management	
		☐ Indicators to Measure Change	
	☐ **Innovation**		
	☐ **Knowledge and Learning**		
		☐ Knowledge Management	
		☐ Innovation	
		☐ Capacity Development	
		☐ Learning	
	☐ **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**		
☒ **Gender Equality**			
	☒ **Gender Mainstreaming**		
		☒ Beneficiaries	

		☐Women groups	
		☐Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		☐Gender-sensitive indicators	
	☐**Gender results areas**		
		☐Access and control over natural resources	
		☐Participation and leadership	
		☐Access to benefits and services	
		☐Capacity development	
		☐Awareness raising	
		☐Knowledge generation	
☒**Focal Areas/Theme**			
	☐**Integrated Programs**		
		☐Commodity Supply Chains ([33]Good Growth Partnership)	
			☐Sustainable Commodities Production
			☐Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐Financial Screening Tools
			☐High Conservation Value Forests
			☐High Carbon Stocks Forests
			☐Soybean Supply Chain
			☐Oil Palm Supply Chain
			☐Beef Supply Chain
			☐Smallholder Farmers
			☐Adaptive Management
		☐Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			☐Resilience (climate and shocks)
			☐Sustainable Production Systems
			☐Agroecosystems
			☐Land and Soil Health
			☐Diversified Farming
			☐Integrated Land and Water Management
			☐Smallholder Farming
			☐Small and Medium Enterprises
			☐Crop Genetic Diversity
			☐Food Value Chains
			☐Gender Dimensions
			☐Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		☐Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			☐Sustainable Food Systems
			☐Landscape Restoration
			☐Sustainable Commodity Production
			☐Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			☐Integrated Landscapes
			☐Food Value Chains
			☐Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐Smallholder Farmers
		☐Sustainable Cities	
			☐Integrated urban planning
			☐Urban sustainability framework
			☐Transport and Mobility
			☐Buildings
			☐Municipal waste management
			☐Green space
			☐Urban Biodiversity
			☐Urban Food Systems
			☐Energy efficiency
			☐Municipal Financing
			☐Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			☐Urban Resilience
	☒**Biodiversity**		

33

		☐ Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			☐ Terrestrial Protected Areas
			☐ Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			☐ Productive Landscapes
			☐ Productive Seascapes
			☐ Community Based Natural Resource Management
		☐ Mainstreaming	
			☐ Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			☒ Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			☐ Tourism
			☐ Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			☐ Fisheries
			☐ Infrastructure
			☐ Certification (National Standards)
			☐ Certification (International Standards)
		☐ Species	
			☐ Illegal Wildlife Trade
			☐ Threatened Species
			☐ Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			☐ Crop Wild Relatives
			☐ Plant Genetic Resources
			☐ Animal Genetic Resources
			☐ Livestock Wild Relatives
			☐ Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		☐ Biomes	
			☐ Mangroves
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Sea Grasses
			☐ Wetlands
			☐ Rivers
			☐ Lakes
			☐ Tropical Rain Forests
			☐ Tropical Dry Forests
			☐ Temperate Forests
			☐ Grasslands
			☐ Paramo
			☐ Desert
		☐ Financial and Accounting	
			☐ Payment for Ecosystem Services
			☐ Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			☐ Conservation Trust Funds
			☐ Conservation Finance
		☐ Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			☐ Biosafety
			☐ Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	☒ **Forests**		
		☒ Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			☐ REDD/REDD+
		☐ Forest	
			☐ Amazon
			☐ Congo
			☐ Drylands
	☐ **Land Degradation**		
		☐ Sustainable Land Management	
			☐ Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			☐ Ecosystem Approach
			☐ Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			☐ Community-Based NRM
			☐ Sustainable Livelihoods
			☐ Income Generating Activities

			☐ Sustainable Agriculture
			☐ Sustainable Pasture Management
			☐ Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			☐ Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			☐ Sustainable Fire Management
			☐ Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		☐ Land Degradation Neutrality	
			☐ Land Productivity
			☐ Land Cover and Land cover change
			☐ Carbon stocks above or below ground
		☐ Food Security	
	☐ **International Waters**		
		☐ Ship	
		☐ Coastal	
		☐ Freshwater	
			☐ Aquifer
			☐ River Basin
			☐ Lake Basin
		☐ Learning	
		☐ Fisheries	
		☐ Persistent toxic substances	
		☐ SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		☐ Targeted Research	
		☐ Pollution	
			☐ Persistent toxic substances
			☐ Plastics
			☐ Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			☐ Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		☐ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		☐ Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		☐ Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		☐ Large Marine Ecosystems	
		☐ Private Sector	
		☐ Aquaculture	
		☐ Marine Protected Area	
		☐ Biomes	
			☐ Mangrove
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Seagrasses
			☐ Polar Ecosystems
			☐ Constructed Wetlands
	☐ **Chemicals and Waste**		
		☐ Mercury	
		☐ Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		☐ Coal Fired Power Plants	
		☐ Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		☐ Cement	
		☐ Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		☐ Ozone	
		☐ Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		☐ Waste Management	
			☐ Hazardous Waste Management
			☐ Industrial Waste
			☐ e-Waste
		☐ Emissions	
		☐ Disposal	
		☐ New Persistent Organic Pollutants	

		☐ Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		☐ Plastics	
		☐ Eco-Efficiency	
		☐ Pesticides	
		☐ DDT - Vector Management	
		☐ DDT - Other	
		☐ Industrial Emissions	
		☐ Open Burning	
		☐ Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		☐ Green Chemistry	
	☒ **Climate Change**		
		☐ **Climate Change Adaptation**	
			☐ Climate Finance
			☐ Least Developed Countries
			☐ Small Island Developing States
			☐ Disaster Risk Management
			☐ Sea-level rise
			☐ Climate Resilience
			☐ Climate information
			☐ Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
			☐ National Adaptation Programme of Action
			☐ National Adaptation Plan
			☐ Mainstreaming Adaptation
			☐ Private Sector
			☐ Innovation
			☐ Complementarity
			☐ Community-based Adaptation
			☐ Livelihoods
		☐ **Climate Change Mitigation**	
			☐ Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			☐ Energy Efficiency
			☐ Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			☐ Technology Transfer
			☐ Renewable Energy
			☐ Financing
			☐ Enabling Activities
		☐ **Technology Transfer**	
			☐ Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			☐ Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			☐ Endogenous technology
			☐ Technology Needs Assessment
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
		☐ **United Nations Framework on Climate Change**	
			☐ Nationally Determined Contribution
		☐ **Climate Finance (Rio Markers)**	☐ Paris Agreement ☐ Sustainable Development Goals ☐ Climate Change Mitigation 1 ☐ Climate Change Mitigation 2 ☐ Climate Change Adaptation 1 ☐ Climate Change Adaptation 2

Annex G: Workplan for Armenia												
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Component 1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information												
Outcome: 1.1 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Armenia												
Output: 1.1.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Armenia												
Activity 1.1.1.1 Analysis on decision making and stakeholder engagement within the forest, land use and biodiversity sectors												
1.1.1.2 Drafting of stakeholder map and decision tree for the land use, forest and biodiversity sectors												
1.1.1.3 Research and inventory on available spatial and non-spatial data and their use in decision making												
1.1.1.4 Compiling, cleaning and organization of database, including creation and implementation of data and metadata standards												
1.1.1.5 Discussion on results of data and data gaps within technical working groups and national steering committee												
Output 1.1.2 Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Armenia												
1.1.2.1 Assess database and decision-making tree (deliverables 1.1.1.2.1 and 1.1.1.4.1) with technical working group and decide which data to display in portal based on national needs												
1.1.2.2 Assessment of national priorities of decision made within the land use, forest and biodiversity sectors by technical working group and national steering committee												
1.1.2.3 Customize portal template based on national needs and priorities												
1.1.2.4 Develop and create specialized analyses and dashboards based on recommendations of technical working group and national steering committee												
1.1.2.5 Determine TOR for database management and atlas maintenance to ensure sustainability of the tools created after project end												
Output 1.1.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Armenia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied												
1.1.3.1 Assess national land use challenges and landscape restoration options with technical working group												
1.1.3.2 Identify the conditions necessary for successful implementation of different restoration options on a national scale with technical working group												
1.1.3.3 Stocktaking and collection of relevant maps, reports, and expert opinion based on the conditions determined in activity 1.1.3.2												
1.1.3.4 Produce maps for national potential restoration options												
1.1.3.5 Review maps with technical working group and adjust conditions and criteria as needed												
1.1.3.6 Finalize landscape restoration potential map with technical working group and publish results as a layer in the portal												

Annex G: Workplan for Armenia												
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1.1.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and land use planning												
1.1.4.1 Identification of priority landscape by technical working group and national steering committee												
1.1.4.2 Stocktaking of relevant maps, reports, and interviews with stakeholders in priority landscape												
1.1.4.3 Development of publication quantifying the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services with various types of restoration nationwide, with detail on intervention within the priority landscape												
1.1.4.4 Development of a feasibility plan to test out restoration options and strategy for chosen priority landscape												
1.1.4.5 Draft submission of Bonn Challenge pledge based on outcome of deliverable 1.1.3.6.1												
Component 2. Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions												
Outcome 2.1 Stakeholders in Armenia capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs												
Output 2.1.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project												
2.1.1.1 Identify and invite key members to join technical working group and national steering committee based on stakeholder recommendations												
2.1.1.2 At least quarterly meetings held within the technical working group and at least yearly meetings held of national steering committee to provide advice and recommendations for project												
Output 2.1.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization												
2.1.2.1 Develop training and outreach plan based on results of stakeholder analysis performed in activity 1.1.1.1 and assessment of current capacity and capacity needed												
2.1.2.2 Implement training and capacity plan developed in activity 2.1.2.1												
2.1.2.3 Creation of outreach materials for widespread uptake												
2.1.2.4 Organize targeted workshops on results of restoration opportunities analysis and use of the portal												

Annex G: Workplan for Azerbaijan												
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Component 1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information												
Outcome: 1.2 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Azerbaijan												
Output: 1.2.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan												
Activity 1.2.1.1 Analysis on decision making and stakeholder engagement within the forest, land use and biodiversity sectors												
Activity 1.2.1.2 Drafting of stakeholder map and decision tree for the land use, forest and biodiversity sectors												
1.2.1.3 Research and inventory on available spatial and non-spatial data and their use in decision making												
1.2.1.4 Compiling, cleaning and organization of database, including creation and implementation of data and metadata standards												
1.2.1.5 Discussion on results of data and data gaps within technical working groups and national steering committee												
Output 1.2.2 Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Azerbaijan												
1.2.2.1 Assess database and decision-making tree (deliverables 1.1.1.2.1 and 1.1.1.4.1) with technical working group and decide which data to display in portal based on national needs												
1.2.2.2 Assessment of national priorities of decision made within the land use, forest and biodiversity sectors by technical working group and national steering committee												
1.2.2.3 Customize portal template based on national needs and priorities												
1.2.2.4 Develop and create specialized analyses and dashboards based on recommendations of technical working group and national steering committee												
1.2.2.5 Research and develop legislative recommendations and protocols for establishing portal within MENR												
1.2.2.6 Determine TOR for database management and atlas maintenance to ensure sustainability of the tools created after project end												
Output 1.2.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Azerbaijan based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied												
1.2.3.1 Assess national land use challenges and landscape restoration options with technical working group												
1.2.3.2 Identify the conditions necessary for successful implementation of different restoration options on a national scale with technical working group												
1.2.3.3 Stocktaking and collection of relevant maps, reports, and expert opinion based on the conditions determined in activity 1.1.3.2												
1.2.3.4 Produce maps for national potential restoration options												
1.2.3.5 Review maps with technical working group and adjust conditions and criteria as needed												

Annex G: Workplan for Azerbaijan												
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.2.3.6 Finalize landscape restoration potential map with technical working group and publish results as a layer in the portal												
Output 1.2.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and land use planning												
1.2.4.1 Identification of priority landscape by technical working group and national steering committee												
1.2.4.2 Stocktaking of relevant maps, reports, and interviews with stakeholders in priority landscape												
1.2.4.3 Development of publication quantifying the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services with various types of restoration nationwide, with detail on intervention within the priority landscape												
1.2.4.4 Development of a feasibility plan to test out restoration options and strategy for chosen priority landscape												
1.2.4.5 Draft submission of Bonn Challenge pledge based on outcome of deliverable 1.1.3.6.1												
Component 2. Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions												
Outcome 2.2 Stakeholders in Azerbaijan capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs												
Output 2.2.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project												
2.2.1.1 Identify and invite key members to join technical working group and national steering committee based on stakeholder recommendations												
2.2.1.2 At least quarterly meetings held within the technical working group and at least yearly meetings held of national steering committee to provide advice and recommendations for project												
Output 2.2.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization												
2.2.2.1 Develop training and outreach plan based on results of stakeholder analysis performed in activity 1.1.1.1 and assessment of current capacity and capacity needed												
2.2.2.2 Implement training and capacity plan developed in activity 2.1.2.1												
2.2.2.3 Creation of outreach materials for widespread uptake												
2.2.2.4 Organize targeted workshops on results of restoration opportunities analysis and use of the portal												

Annex G: Workplan for Georgia												
Component 1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information												
Outcome: 1.3 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape												
Output 1.3.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Georgia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied												
1.3.3.1 Assess national land use challenges and landscape restoration options with technical working group												
1.3.3.2 Identify the conditions necessary for successful implementation of different restoration options on a national scale with technical working group												
1.3.3.3 Stocktaking and collection of relevant maps, reports, and expert opinion based on the conditions determined in activity 1.1.3.2												
1.3.3.4 Produce maps for national potential restoration options												
1.3.3.5 Review maps with technical working group and adjust conditions and criteria as needed												
1.3.3.6 Finalize landscape restoration potential map with technical working group and publish results as a layer in the portal												
Component 2. Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions												
Outcome 2.3 Stakeholders in Georgia capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs												
Output 2.3.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project												
2.3.1.1 Identify and invite key members to join technical working group and national steering committee based on stakeholder recommendations												
2.3.1.2 At least quarterly meetings held within the technical working group and at least yearly meetings held of national steering committee to provide advice and recommendations for project												
Output 2.3.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization												
2.3.2.1 Develop training and outreach plan based on results of stakeholder analysis performed in activity 1.1.1.1 and assessment of current capacity and capacity needed												
2.3.2.2 Implement training and capacity plan developed in activity 2.1.2.1												
2.3.2.3 Creation of outreach materials for widespread uptake												

Annex G: Workplan for Georgia							
Component 1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information							
Outcome: 1.3 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape							
2.3.2.4 Organize targeted workshops on results of restoration opportunities analysis and use of the portal							

ANNEX H-1 - GLOBAL PROJECT BUDGET (GEF FUNDS ONLY US$)

Project title:										
Project number:										
Project executing partner:										
Project implementation period:			Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description)				Add additional years as required			
From:			Add additional components/activities as required				Expenditure by calendar year			
To:										
UNEP Budget Line			1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information	2: Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions	PMC	Total	Oct19-Sep20	Oct20-Sep21	Oct21-Sep22	Total
10	**PERSONNEL COMPONENT**									
	1100	Project personnel								
	1101	GIS Analyst WRI Staff Time	31,576	10,525		42,101	21,700	10,200	10,201	42,101
	1102	Project Management Time			34,126	34,126	-	-	34,126	34,126
	1103	Technical Staff Time	81,925	27,308		109,233	36,411	36,411	36,411	109,233
	1199	**Sub-total**	**113,501**	**37,834**	**34,126**	**185,460**	**58,111**	**46,611**	**80,738**	**185,460**
	1600	Travel on official business								
	1601	WRI staff to travel to region for meetings	31,996	10,665	-	42,662	12,189	12,189	18,284	42,662
	1699	**Sub-total**	**31,996**	**10,665**	**-**	**42,662**	**12,189**	**12,189**	**18,284**	**42,662**
1999	**Component total**		**145,497**	**48,499**	**34,126**	**228,122**	**70,300**	**58,800**	**99,022**	**228,122**
	2200	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for supporting organizations)								
	2201	Armenia country partners	212,084	74,066	14,320	300,470	105,854	92,269	102,347	300,470
	2202	Azerbaijan country partners	225,385	78,500	14,320	318,206	111,730	97,181	109,296	318,206
	2203	Georgia country partners	25,715	24,442	13,460	63,617	20,080	20,080	23,456	63,617
	2299	**Sub-total**	**463,183**	**177,008**	**42,100**	**682,293**	**237,664**	**209,530**	**235,100**	**682,294**
2999	**Component total**		**463,183**	**177,008**	**42,100**	**682,293**	**237,664**	**209,530**	**235,100**	**682,294**
50	**MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT**									
	5500	Evaluation								
	5501	Midterm Evaluation	10,000	10,000		20,000		20,000		20,000
	5502	Terminal Evaluation	15,000	15,000		30,000			30,000	30,000
	5503	Project-Specific Audit at End of Project			12,189	12,189			12,189	12,189
	5599	**Sub-total**	**25,000**	**25,000**	**12,189**	**62,189**	**-**	**20,000**	**42,189**	**62,189**
5999	**Component total**		**25,000**	**25,000**	**12,189**	**62,189**	**-**	**20,000**	**42,189**	**62,189**
99	**GRAND TOTAL**		**633,680**	**250,507**	**88,415**	**972,604**	**307,964**	**288,330**	**376,310**	**972,604**

ANNEX H-1 - ARMENIA (GEF FUNDS ONLY US$)

Project title:										
Project number:										
Project executing partner:										
Project implementation period:			Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description)							
From:			Add additional components/activities as required				Add additional years as required			
To:							Expenditure by calendar year			
UNEP Budget Line			1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information	2: Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date	PMC	Total	Oct19-Sep20	Oct20-Sep21	Oct21-Sep22	Total
10	**PERSONNEL COMPONENT**									
	1100	Project personnel								
	1102	National Project Staff	92,226	34,814	12,217	139,258	45,368	46,419	47,471	139,258
	1199	**Sub-total**	**92,226**	**34,814**	**12,217**	**139,258**	**45,368**	**46,419**	**47,471**	**139,258**
	1600	Travel on official business								
	1601	International Travel	35,863	11,954		47,818	17,424	14,197	16,198	47,818
	1602	National travel	14,956	4,985		19,941	6,647	6,647	6,647	19,941
	1699	**Sub-total**	**50,819**	**16,940**	**-**	**67,759**	**24,071**	**20,844**	**22,845**	**67,759**
1999	**Component total**		**143,045**	**51,754**	**12,217**	**207,016**	**69,438**	**67,263**	**70,315**	**207,016**
30	**TRAINING COMPONENT**									
	3200	Group training								
	3201	Capacity Building	30,915	10,305		41,221	13,416	10,389	17,416	41,221
	3299	**Sub-total**	**30,915**	**10,305**	**-**	**41,221**	**13,416**	**10,389**	**17,416**	**41,221**
	3300	Meetings/Conferences								
	3301	National Steering Committee	5,679	1,893		7,572	2,524	2,524	2,524	7,572
	3302	National Conferences & Workshops	16,563	5,521		22,084	7,361	7,361	7,361	22,084
	3303	Global Steering Committee	1,183	394		1,577	526	526	526	1,577
	3399	**Sub-total**	**23,424**	**7,808**	**-**	**31,233**	**10,411**	**10,411**	**10,411**	**31,233**
3999	**Component total**		**54,340**	**18,113**	**-**	**72,453**	**23,827**	**20,800**	**27,827**	**72,453**
40	**EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT**									
	4200	Non-expendable equipment								
	4201	Electronic Equipment	11,808	3,936		15,744	12,589	3,155	-	15,744
	4299	**Sub-total**	**11,808**	**3,936**	**-**	**15,744**	**12,589**	**3,155**	**-**	**15,744**
4999	**Component total**		**11,808**	**3,936**	**-**	**15,744**	**12,589**	**3,155**	**-**	**15,744**
50	**MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT**									
	5300	Sundry								
	5301	Communications and printed materials (brochures, maps, etc.)	789	263		1,052	-	1,052		1,052
	5302	Gender-oriented communication	2,102			2,102			2,102	2,102
	5399	**Sub-total**	**2,891**	**263**	**-**	**3,154**	**-**	**1,052**	**2,102**	**3,154**
	5500	Evaluation								
	5501	Project end audit			2,103	2,103			2,103	2,103
	5599	**Sub-total**	**-**	**-**	**2,103**	**2,103**	**-**	**-**	**2,103**	**2,103**
5999	**Component total**		**2,891**	**263**	**2,103**	**5,257**	**-**	**1,052**	**4,205**	**5,257**
99	**GRAND TOTAL**		**212,084**	**74,066**	**14,320**	**300,470**	**105,854**	**92,269**	**102,347**	**300,470**

ANNEX H-1 - AZERBAIJAN (GEF FUNDS ONLY US$)

Project title:										
Project number:										
Project executing partner:										
Project implementation period:			Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description)							
From:			Add additional components/activities as required				Add additional years as required			
To:							Expenditure by calendar year			
UNEP Budget Line			1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information	2: Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions	PMC	Total	Oct19-Sep20	Oct20-Sep21	Oct21-Sep22	Total
10	**PERSONNEL COMPONENT**									
	1100	Project personnel								
	1101	National Project Staff	105,839	39,352	12,218	157,409	51,418	52,470	53,521	157,409
	1199	**Sub-total**	**105,839**	**39,352**	**12,218**	**157,409**	**51,418**	**52,470**	**53,521**	**157,409**
	1600	Travel on official business								
	1601	International Travel	30,381	10,127		40,508	15,320	12,093	13,094	40,508
	1602	National Travel	15,744	5,248		20,992	6,997	6,997	6,997	20,992
	1699	**Sub-total**	**46,125**	**15,375**	**-**	**61,500**	**22,318**	**19,091**	**20,092**	**61,500**
1999	**Component total**		**151,964**	**54,727**	**12,218**	**218,909**	**73,736**	**71,560**	**73,613**	**218,909**
30	**TRAINING COMPONENT**									
	3200	Group training								
	3201	Capacity Building	33,698	11,233		44,931	14,964	11,003	18,964	44,931
	3299	**Sub-total**	**33,698**	**11,233**	**-**	**44,931**	**14,964**	**11,003**	**18,964**	**44,931**
	3300	Meetings/Conferences								
	3301	National Steering Committee	5,679	1,893		7,572	2,524	2,524	2,524	7,572
	3302	National Conferences & Workshops	18,140	6,047		24,187	7,361	7,361	9,464	24,187
	3303	Global Steering Committee	1,183	394		1,577	526	526	526	1,577
	3399	**Sub-total**	**25,002**	**8,334**	**-**	**33,336**	**10,411**	**10,411**	**12,514**	**33,336**
3999	**Component total**		**58,700**	**19,567**	**-**	**78,267**	**25,375**	**21,414**	**31,478**	**78,267**
40	**EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT**									
	4200	Non-expendable equipment								
	4201	Electronic Equipment	11,831	3,944		15,774	12,619	3,155	-	15,774
	4299	**Sub-total**	**11,831**	**3,944**	**-**	**15,774**	**12,619**	**3,155**	**-**	**15,774**
4999	**Component total**		**11,831**	**3,944**	**-**	**15,774**	**12,619**	**3,155**	**-**	**15,774**
50	**MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT**									
	5300	Sundry								
	5301	Communications and printed materials (brochures, maps, etc.)	789	263		1,052		1,052		1,052
	5302	Gender-oriented communication	2,102			2,102			2,102	2,102
	5399	**Sub-total**	**2,891**	**263**	**-**	**3,154**	**-**	**1,052**	**2,102**	**3,154**
	5500	Evaluation								
	5501	Project end audit			2,103	2,103			2,103	2,103
	5599	**Sub-total**	**-**	**-**	**2,103**	**2,103**	**-**	**-**	**2,103**	**2,103**
5999	**Component total**		**2,891**	**263**	**2,103**	**5,257**	**-**	**1,052**	**4,205**	**5,257**
99	**GRAND TOTAL**		**225,385**	**78,500**	**14,321**	**318,206**	**111,730**	**97,181**	**109,296**	**318,206**

ANNEX H-1 - GEORGIA (GEF FUNDS ONLY US$)

Project title:										
Project number:										
Project executing partner:										
Project implementation period:			Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description)							
From:			Add additional components/activities as required				Add additional years as required			
To:			1: Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information	2: Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions	PMC	Total	Expenditure by calendar year			
UNEP Budget Line							Oct19-Sep20	Oct20-Sep21	Oct21-Sep22	Total
10	**PERSONNEL COMPONENT**									
	1100	Project personnel								
	1101	National Project Staff	8,518	8,518	11,357	28,393	9,464	9,464	9,464	28,393
	1199	**Sub-total**	**8,518**	**8,518**	**11,357**	**28,393**	**9,464**	**9,464**	**9,464**	**28,393**
	1600	Travel on official business								
	1601	National Travel	3,155	3,155	-	6,310	2,103	2,103	2,103	6,310
	1699	**Sub-total**	**3,155**	**3,155**	**-**	**6,310**	**2,103**	**2,103**	**2,103**	**6,310**
1999	**Component total**		**11,673**	**11,673**	**11,357**	**34,703**	**11,568**	**11,568**	**11,568**	**34,703**
30	**TRAINING COMPONENT**									
	3300	Meetings/Conferences								
	3301	Global Steering Committee	2,989	2,989	-	5,978	1,993	1,993	1,993	5,978
	3302	National Steering Committee	1,893	1,893	-	3,786	1,262	1,262	1,262	3,786
	3303	National Conferences & Workshops	7,887	7,887	-	15,774	5,258	5,258	5,258	15,774
	3399	**Sub-total**	**12,769**	**12,769**	**-**	**25,538**	**8,513**	**8,513**	**8,513**	**25,538**
3999	**Component total**		**12,769**	**12,769**	**-**	**25,538**	**8,513**	**8,513**	**8,513**	**25,538**
50	**MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT**									
	5300	Sundry								
	5301	Gender-oriented communication	1,273			1,273			1,273	1,273
	5399	**Sub-total**	**1,273**	**-**	**-**	**1,273**	**-**	**-**	**1,273**	**1,273**
	5500	Evaluation								
	5501	Project end audit			2,103	2,103			2,103	2,103
	5599	**Sub-total**	**-**	**-**	**2,103**	**2,103**	**-**	**-**	**2,103**	**2,103**
5999	**Component total**		**1,273**	**-**	**2,103**	**3,376**	**-**	**-**	**3,376**	**3,376**
99	**GRAND TOTAL**		**25,715**	**24,442**	**13,460**	**63,617**	**20,080**	**20,080**	**23,456**	**63,617**

Annex H2: Co-financing by source, component and year (US Dollars)

Co-financier	Comp 1	Comp 2	PMC	TOTAL		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia	300,000	700,000	0	1,000,000		400,000	200,000	400,000	**1,000,000**
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic	300,000	700,000	0	1,000,000		400,000	200,000	400,000	**1,000,000**
Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	48,000	112,000	0	160,000		64,000	32,000	64,000	**160,000**
World Resources Institute	1,214,000	606,000	180,000	2,000,000		850,000	530,000	620,000	**2,000,000**
REC Caucasus	40,100	199,600	60,300	300,000		100,000	100,000	100,000	**300,000**
TOTAL	**1,902,100**	**2,317,600**	**240,300**	**4,460,000**		**1,814,000**	**1,062,000**	**1,584,000**	**4,460,000**

Annex I: Costed M&E plan

The Results Framework is the logical framework that was developed to define the structure of the project, the relationship between the components, and connects components with activity-specific indicators to track process and achievements. Building on the Results Framework, the M&E Plan is the tool to be used for quarterly, mid-term, and end-of-project monitoring and evaluation.

Responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation are assigned to the various participating institutions, which are identified below, and to different project officers, according to their management functions and responsibilities. Day-to-day management and monitoring of project activities, and any consultants and subcontractors recruited to undertake them, will be the responsibility of the World Resources Institute. The timely preparation and submission of mandatory reports forms an integral part of the monitoring process.

In order to also evaluate effective operations of the project, the M&E plan will be used simultaneously with the Project Agreement Document signed by UNEP and WRI which includes indicators related to timeliness of progress reports; achievement of performance targets, outputs and outcomes; promptly implementation of corrective actions when required; timely disbursements; and evidence of sound financial practices in audits reports.

The monitoring and evaluation process is expected to be a key component of each outcome area, within the project, based on a three-year implementation plan. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will be conducted utilising the results-based management approach. The Results Framework provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with corresponding means of verification. M&E will be an on-going process and is based on the following strategic directions:

The monitoring and evaluation process is participatory, consultative and aimed at ensuring delivery of project outputs and achievement of associated defined targets. Evaluation will be based on the status of implementation, through identification of gaps, and the measurement of impacts and level of success in the application of best practices.

UN Environment will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Management Unit and partners will participate actively in the process.

The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term. The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools.

The Project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UN Environment Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed

recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UN Environment Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office of UN Environment. The Evaluation Office of UN Environment will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

In-line with UN Environment Evaluation Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation (TE).

The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the TE and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

(i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
(ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN Environment, the GEF, executing partners and other stakeholders.

The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will be initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities and, if a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, should be completed prior to completion of the project and the submission of the follow-on proposal. TE must be initiated no later than six months after operational completion.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised and further reviewed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office upon submission. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The M&E plan includes an inception workshop and report, project implementation reviews, quarterly and annual review reports, and mid-term and final evaluations. The following sections outline the principal components of the M&E plan and M&E activities. The M&E plan for the project will be presented and finalized in an Inception report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of implementation arrangements related to executing partners and project staff.

The indicative Monitoring and Evaluation Work Plan is provided in the table below. The estimated cost of M&E activities is USD 98,508 (GEF and co-finance), fully integrated into the project budget, as shown below:

Type of M&E activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Budget from GEF**	**Co-finance**	**Time Frame**
Inception Meeting	Project Manager, Project Team, Steering Committee, UN Environment	1,200	500	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	Project Manager	1,750	NA	1 month after project inception meeting

Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	Project Manager & Project Team; Consultants	3,500	NA	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	Project Manager	1,750	NA	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Global Project Steering Committee and National Steering Committee meetings	• Project Manager (chair) • Delegated Representatives of other relevant ministries • A representative of UN Environment • NGOs • Private sector representatives • Local community/academia representatives	10,000	3,000	At least once a year, and via electronic media per request and need
Reports of PSC meetings	Project Manager	1,750	NA	Within 1 month after PSC meeting
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	Project Manager; UN Environment	1,750	NA	Annually, part of reporting routine (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Mid Term Review/ Evaluation	• Project Manager • PMU • Domestic & External consultant(s) • UN Environment	20,000	750	At mid-point of project implementation (*Note: If a Mid-Term review is not required for this MSP, these resources will be applied to the Terminal Evaluation)
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP EO	30,000	750	Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	Project Executing Agency		10,500	Annually
Project Final Report	Project Manager	3,500	NA	Within 2 months of the project completion date (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)
Co-financing report	Project Manager and Finance Manager	1,500	NA	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July (Cost incorporated in project components and management budget)

Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	Project Manager; Consultants for lessons learnt evaluation	6,308	NA	Annually, also part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget		83,008	15,500	

ANNEX J: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

UN Environment will act as the GEF Implementing Agency. The World Resources Institute (WRI) will act as the Executing Agency for the overall project, in collaboration with the REC Caucasus, the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Implementation arrangements in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were identified during the national consultation of the Project Preparation Grant phase. National Coordinators, supported by technical experts of the Ministries and guided by the National Steering Committees, in each country will ensure project delivery in coordination with other relevant projects in their countries. Every six months and prior to the annual overall project steering committee meeting, national-level project steering committees will meet and prepare annual reports and forward workplans. National-level project steering committees will be chaired by the respective Ministry Partners. The Executing Agency will conclude sub-grants with the executing partners. Sub-grant agreements will be based on, and incorporate, the national budgets (see Annex H-1), which already define spending allocations under each of these subgrants.

Along with WRI, executing partners in each country will be directly responsible for execution of outputs and activities outlined in the project document. WRI will provide backstopping for national technical work (see project management below for related arrangements).

Project management and technical support

WRI will assign a project manager and part-time technical experts, who will be responsible for overall project management on behalf of the executing agency and provide technical support. For this purpose, they will maintain close contact with the respective national coordinators and staff in each country.

With support from WRI, the executing partners in each country will identify and recruit national coordinators and technical experts for each country. The national coordinators will support execution of outputs and activities outlined in the project document, whereas technical experts will lead implementation of key technical components of the work, including data platform development.

Steering Committees

Regional

The project will build on the existing and effective coordination mechanisms established as part of the GFW partnershipI. Annual GFW Partnership meetings will be attended by a representative of each of the countries, as well as a UN Environment representative (UN Environment is also a GFW Partner). Country representatives will be asked to provide brief reports to the Partners' meeting on country-level progress, lessons learned, etc.

The project steering committee will be comprised of representatives of the executing agency and all executing partners, the GEF Implementing Agency (UN Environment), and select technical experts from agencies not directly connected with the project. The project steering committee will focus on issues associated with the project under the logical framework and will provide advice and oversight on the project's progress towards meeting its expected outcomes and outputs.

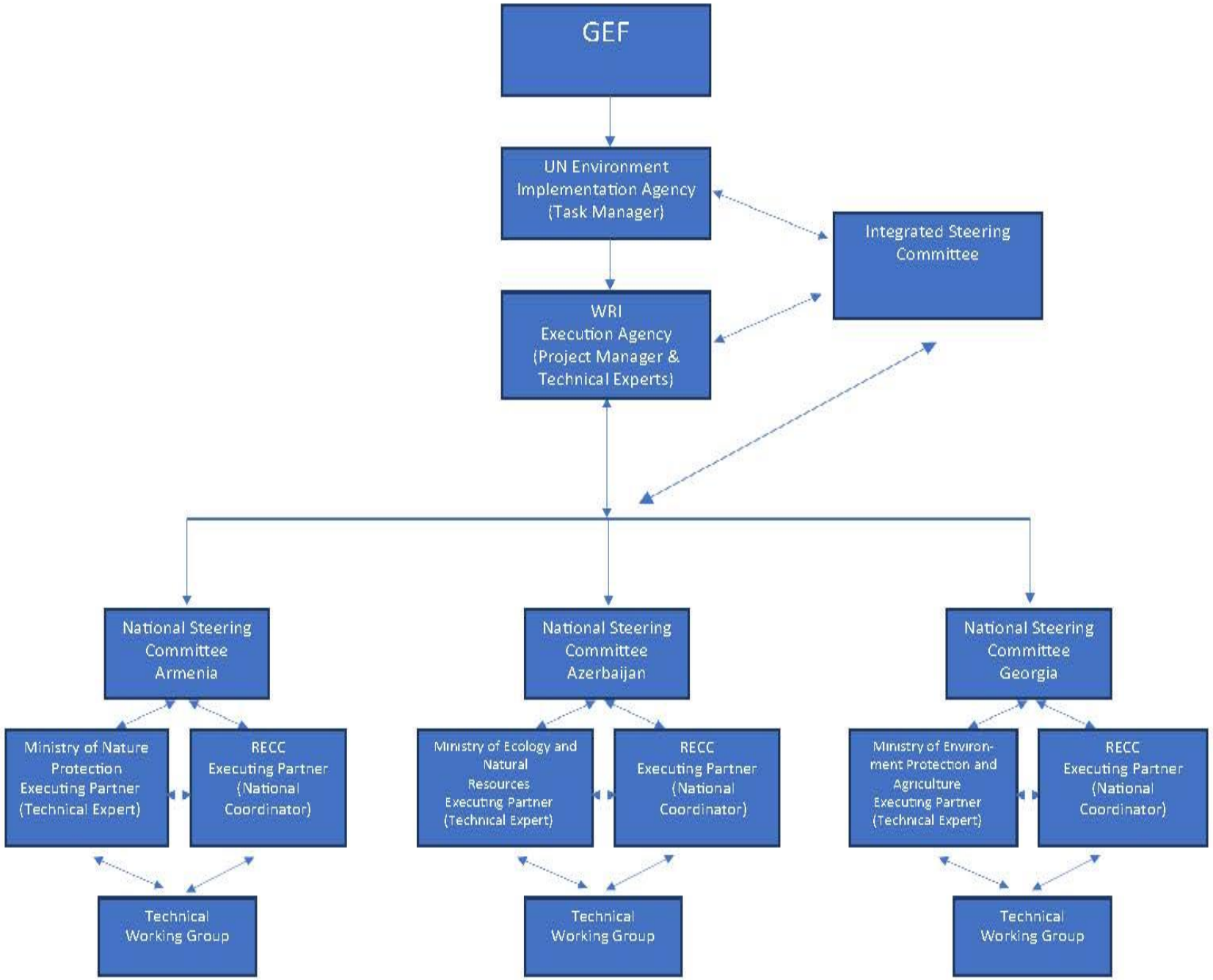
UN Environment will contribute to ensuring that appropriate linkages and coordination is maintained with relevant programs of all other relevant UN agencies, such as the UN REDD programs, the UN Finance Initiative, the UNDP-UN Environment Poverty and Environment Initiative, as well as with global environmental conventions and particularly with CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and IPBES. UN Environment and WRI have a long and successful history of productive partnership.

Country level

Every six months and prior to the above annual overall project steering committee meeting, national-level project steering committees will have met and prepared annual reports and forward workplans. National-level project steering committees will be chaired by the respective executing partner in each country. Representatives of UN Environment and WRI will also act as members of the national project steering committees.

Other committees

As described under project output 2.1.1, output 2.2.1, and output 2.3.1, national multi-sectoral technical working groups will be established to ensure operational transparency and effective management, especially in regards to the latest remote sensing information, needed data, and long-term sustainability of the project. The technical working groups will hold quarterly meetings and will include experts in various relevant fields as well as champions of the project. The technical working groups will address specific technical challenges related to data and will be involved in the development of any new key datasets created for the project. The technical working groups will be encouraged to communicate regularly regarding known uncertainty levels and limitations related to specific data used within the scope of the project. Finally, various workshops will convene relevant stakeholders to address questions and concerns about specific datasets and associated methodologies, including data scientists, forestry practitioners, and media.


GEF
UN Environment Implementation Agency (Task Manager)
Integrated Steering Committee
WRI Execution Agency (Project Manager & Technical Experts)
National Steering Committee Armenia
National Steering Committee Azerbaijan
National Steering Committee Georgia
Ministry of Nature Protection Executing Partner (Technical Expert)
RECC Executing Partner (National Coordinator)
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Executing Partner (Technical Expert)
RECC Executing Partner (National Coordinator)
Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture Executing Partner (Technical Expert)
RECC Executing Partner (National Coordinator)
Technical Working Group
Technical Working Group
Technical Working Group

ANNEX K - KEY DELIVERABLES AND BENCHMARKS

Component	Outcome	Output	Deliverable	Benchmark
1. Catalyze better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information	1.1 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Armenia**	1.1.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest, land use and biodiversity data in Armenia	Stakeholder map and decision tree on land-use for forestry sector Database of available and needed land-use data, including metadata Decision by technical working group on the use of data and assessment of data gaps and a workplan to fill the data gaps	Final report with stakeholder map and decision tree disseminated to stakeholders, including National Steering Committee Research completed and data gaps are identified All available relevant data collected with metadata and data use agreements in place Database of clean, standardized data available and ready to be published
		1.1.2 Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal including development of ready-to-use analyses for better land use decisions and to more easily share information in Armenia	Interactive forest and land use portal published online and available for use in national language Approved TOR with clear plan for ongoing responsibilities after project end	New features and customizations working and in use on the portal New analytical tools and dashboards up and running on portal with no bugs TOR approved by national steering committee to be implemented
		1.1.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Armenia based on the best knowledge and	National report providing information on the number of hectares that can be restored per restoration option	National report published and shared with all relevant stakeholders, including on the portal and with the networks of MNP,

		science developed, tested, and applied	Map and data layer produced with interactive analyses showing restoration potential for a given area on a national scale	UN Environment, WRI, and REC Caucasus Map and data published for viewing and analysis on portal
		1.1.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration and land use planning	Policy brief with analysis of area of opportunity for restoration and environmental benefits Publication with analysis of restoration potential and intervention strategy plan for chosen priority landscape	Published document officially submitted to MNP and disseminated to all project stakeholders Published document officially submitted to and disseminated to all project stakeholders
	1.2 Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable management of forest landscapes and support restoration, planning and implementation in **Azerbaijan**	1.2.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan	Stakeholder map and decision tree on land-use for forestry sector Database of available and needed land-use data, including metadata Decision by technical working group on the use of data and assessment of data gaps and a workplan to fill the data gaps	Final report with stakeholder map and decision tree disseminated to stakeholders, including National Steering Committee Research completed and data gaps are identified All available relevant data collected with metadata and data use agreements in place Database of clean, standardized data available and ready to be published
		1.2.2 Creation of an interactive forest	Interactive forest and land use portal	New features and customizations

		portal including development of ready-to-use analyses to improve and more easily share forest information in Azerbaijan	published online and available for use in national language Approved TOR with clear plan for ongoing responsibilities after project end	working and in use on the portal New analytical tools and dashboards up and running on portal with no bugs TOR approved by national steering committee to be implemented
		1.2.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Azerbaijan based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied	National report providing information on the number of hectares that can be restored per restoration option Map and data layer produced with interactive analyses showing restoration potential for a given area on a national scale	National report published and shared with all relevant stakeholders, including on the portal and with the networks of MNP, UN Environment, WRI, and REC Caucasus Map and data published for viewing and analysis on portal
		1.2.4 Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forest restoration planning	Policy brief with analysis of area of opportunity for restoration and environmental benefits Publication with analysis of restoration potential and intervention strategy plan for chosen priority landscape	Published document officially submitted to MENR and disseminated to all project stakeholders Published document officially submitted to and disseminated to all project stakeholders
	1.3 Enable improved forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in **Georgia**	1.3.1 Restoration Opportunity Map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Georgia based on the best knowledge and science	National report providing information on the number of hectares that can be restored per restoration option	National report published and shared with all relevant stakeholders, including on the portal and with the

		developed, tested and applied	Map and data layer produced with interactive analyses showing restoration potential for a given area on a national scale	networks of MNP, UN Environment, WRI, and REC Caucasus Map and data published for viewing and analysis on portal
2. Increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions	**2.1** Stakeholders in **Armenia** capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs	2.1.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project	Meeting minutes produced and distributed to technical working group and national steering committee members, with the chance to provide comments, and final minutes shared publicly to all interested parties	Technical working group and national steering committee formed and composed of relevant and necessary stakeholders Meeting minutes of all meetings disseminated to stakeholders
		2.1.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization	Capacity building and outreach workplan developed and distributed to technical working group and national steering committee Key personnel trained in the use of the tools developed during the project Outreach materials published and distributed including maps and infographics Multiple workshops held	Capacity building and outreach workplans created, approved, and in use Trainings completed with participants demonstrating increased capacity Outreach materials created and disseminated widely through networks of MNP, UN Environment, WRI, and REC Caucasus Targeted workshops held with notes and other relevant materials

				disseminated to all participants
	2.2 Stakeholders in **Azerbaijan** capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs	2.2.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project	Meeting minutes produced and distributed to technical working group and national steering committee members, with the chance to provide comments, and final minutes shared publicly to all interested parties	Technical working group and national steering committee formed and composed of relevant and necessary stakeholders Meeting minutes of all meetings disseminated to stakeholders
		2.2.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization	Capacity building and outreach workplan developed and distributed to technical working group and national steering committee Key personnel trained in the use of the tools developed during the project Outreach materials published and distributed including maps and infographics Multiple workshops held	Capacity building and outreach workplans created, approved, and in use Trainings completed with participants demonstrating increased capacity Outreach materials created and disseminated widely through networks of MENR, UN Environment, WRI, and REC Caucasus Targeted workshops held with notes and other relevant materials disseminated to all participants
	2.3 Stakeholders in **Georgia** capacitated to apply GFW to decisions related to landscape restoration by participation in	2.3.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project	Meeting minutes produced and distributed to technical working group and national steering committee members, with the chance to provide	Technical working group and national steering committee formed and composed of relevant and necessary stakeholders

	exchanges and training programs		comments, and final minutes shared publicly to all interested parties	Meeting minutes of all meetings disseminated to stakeholders
		2.3.2 Training and outreach on use of restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization	Capacity building and outreach workplan developed and distributed to technical working group and national steering committee Key personnel trained in the use of the tools developed during the project Outreach materials published and distributed including maps and infographics Multiple workshops held	Capacity building and outreach workplans created, approved, and in use Trainings completed with participants demonstrating increased capacity Outreach materials created and disseminated widely through networks of MEPA, UN Environment, WRI, and REC Caucasus Targeted workshops held with notes and other relevant materials disseminated to all participants

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԲՆԱՊԱՀՊԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTRY OF NATURE PROTECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MINISTER
МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОХРАНЫ ПРИРОДЫ РЕСПУБЛИКИ АРМЕНИЯ
МИНИСТР

0010, ք. Երևան, Հանրապետության հր. Կառավարական 3-րդ տուն
3 Government Bldg, Republic Sq, Yerevan, 0010, Armenia
0010, Армения, г.Ереван, Дом правительства, здание N3
էլ.փոստ /E-mail/ эл.почта: min_ecology@mnp.am
Web page: www.mnp.am
(374 11) 818 501
(374 11) 818 506

№ 1/08.2/10588
«20» «03» 2018թ.

To: Ms.Kelly West,
Senior Programme Manager,
Global Environment Facility Coordinator
Corporate Services Division,
United Nations Environment Programme

Cc: Mr.Ersin Esen
UNCBD Focal Point, UN Environment

Subject: Endorsement for "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region".

Dear Ms. West;

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Armenia, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is consistent with my Government's national priorities and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) as GEF Implementing Agency. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by "Environmental Projects Implementation Unit" SA of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia. I request UN Environment to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO Endorsement.

The total financing from GEFTF being requested for this project is **USD 500,000** inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG) if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Armenia is detailed in the table below:

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal area	Project Prep.	Project	Fee 9.5%	Total
GEFTF	UNEP	Biodiversity	13,889	443,937	42,174	500,000
Total GEF Resources			13,889	443,937	42,174	500,000

I consent to the utilization of Armenia's allocations in GEF-6 as defined in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).

Sincerely,

Artsvik Minasyan
GEF Political and Operational Focal Point for Armenia
Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia

ICD
K.Khachatryan 011818508/513

საქართველო
GEORGIA

გარემოს დაცვისა და
სოფლის მეურნეობის
სამინისტრო

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE
OF GEORGIA

N 2419/01
27/03/2018

2419-01-2-201803271556

To: Kelly West
Global Environment Facility Coordinator
Corporate Services Division
UN Environment
P.O. Box 30552-00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Ms. West,

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia supports the project proposal "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region".

Please, find the official endorsement letter of the project issued by Ms. Nino Tkhilava, Head of Department of Environment and Climate Change, GEF operational focal point in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Nino Tandilashvili
Deputy Minister

0159, საქართველო, თბილისი, მარშალ გელოვანის გამზ. №6. ტელ./ფაქსი: +(995 32) 2378013
www.moa.gov.ge
6, Marshal Gelovani ave., Tbilisi 0159, Georgia, Phone/Fax:+(995 32) 2378013

Kelly West
Senior Programme Manager
& Global Environment Facility Coordinator
Corporate Services Division
United Nations Environment Programme
Kelly.West@unep.org

Dear Ms. West:

Subject: Endorsement for "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region"

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for **Georgia**, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is consistent with my Government's national priorities and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) as GEF Implementing Agency. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia with support of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus. I request UN Environment to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO Endorsement.

The total financing from GEFTF being requested for this project is **USD 75,000** inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG) and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Georgia is detailed in the table below:

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal area	Project Prep.	Project	Fee 9.5%	Total
GEFTF	UNEP	Biodiversity	2,055	66,617	6,328	75,000
Total GEF Resources			2,055	66,617	6,328	75,000

I consent to the utilization of Georgia's allocations in GEF-6 as defined in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).

Sincerely,

Nino Tkhilava
Head of Department of Environment and Climate Change
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
GEF Operational Focal Point

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
EKOLOGİYA VƏ TƏBİİ SƏRVƏTLƏR
NAZİRLİYİ

MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Az1073 Azərbaycan, Bakı, B.Ağayev küç. 100A
Tel: (99412) 538-85-08, Faks (99412) 492-59-07

B.Aghayev str: 100A, Az1073 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel: (99412) 538-85-08, Fax (99412) 492-59-07

№ 4/588-01-11 «10» 04 2018 il

Ms. Kelly West
Senior Programme Manager
and Global Environment Facility Coordinator
Corporate Services Division
United Nations Environment Programme

Subject: *Endorsement for "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region"*

Dear Ms. West,

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Azerbaijan, I confirm that the above national project proposal is in accordance with our national priorities and commitments to the relevant global environmental conventions and was discussed with relevant stakeholders.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) as GEF Implementing Agency. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. I request UN Environment to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing from GEFTF being requested for this project is USD 520,000 inclusive of project preparation grant if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Azerbaijan is detailed in the table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal area	Project Prep.	Project	Fee 9.5%	Total
GEF TF	UNEP	Biodiversity	14,246	461,875	43,878	520,000
Total GEF Resources			14,246	461,875	43,878	520,000

Sincerely,

Hussein Baghirov

Minister
GEF Operational Focal Point

UNEP Environmental, Social and Economic Review Note (ESERN)

I. Project Overview

Identification	GEFSEC ID 10050
Project Title	Project preparation proposal for Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region
Managing Division	
Type/Location	Regional
Region	South Caucasus
List Countries	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Project Description	The project's objective is to address barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing an innovative user-friendly tool that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover by restoring forests. Access to information enables governments, communities, civil society, companies and the media to hold those responsible for forests accountable for the threats facing forests. This will be achieved through the development of innovative user-friendly tools that contain shareable and reliable up-to-date local and global information and provide on-the-fly analyses for easy reporting, decision making, monitoring, enforcement, and intervening. The project, using technology developed by Global Forest Watch (GFW), will create an interactive forest and land-use web-based portal with local and global data, and in local languages, that will be customizable and include important ready-to-use analyses for better decision making and to more easily share information. Information will also be available on the main Global Forest Watch platform and the Resource Watch platform, which is being launched in 2018 and will pull from information across World Resources Institute's various platforms, including Global Forest Watch, to focus on how current trends in data, technology, media and human networks can inform decision-making around natural resources. In addition to creating national portals and contributing to global platforms, the project will facilitate national commitments to restoration and improved enable legal and policy conditions across sectors to enhance the roles of trees in agricultural landscapes and to restore forests in ways that support the strategies of avoided deforestation and increased connectivity of forest complexes.
Estimated duration of project:	36 months
Estimated cost of the project :	972,604

II. Environmental Social and Economic Screening Determination

A. Summary of the Safeguard Risks Triggered

Safeguard Standard Triggered by the Project	Impact of Risk[1] (1-5)	Probability of Risk (1-5)	Significance of Risk (L, M, H)
SS 1: Biodiversity, natural habitat and Sustainable Management of Living Resources	1	1	L
SS 2: Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes	1	1	L
SS 3: Safety of Dams	1	1	L
SS 4: Involuntary resettlement	1	1	L
SS 5: Indigenous peoples	1	1	L
SS 6: Labor and working conditions	1	1	L
SS 7: Cultural Heritage	1	1	L
SS 8: Gender equity	1	1	L
SS 9: Economic Sustainability	1	1	L
Additional Safeguard questions for projects seeking GCF-funding (Section IV)			

B. ESE Screening Decision[2] (Refer to the UNEP ESES Framework (Chapter 2) and the UNEP's ESES Guidelines.)

Low risk ☒ Moderate risk ☐ High risk ☐ Additional information required ☐

C. Development of ESE Review Note and Screening Decision:

Prepared by: Name: _Ersin Esen_____ Date: 10/04/2019

Safeguard Advisor: Name: Yunae Yi Date: 15/05/2019

Project Manager: Name: _Ersin Esen_____ Date: 10/04/2019

D. Recommended further action from the Safeguard Advisor:

[1] Refer to UNEP Environment, Social and Economic Sustainability (ESES): Implementation Guidance Note to assign values to the Impact of Risk and the Probability of Risk to determine the overall significance of Risk (Low, Moderate or High).

[2] **Low risk**: Negative impacts negligible: no further study or impact management required.
Moderate risk: Potential negative impacts, but less significant; few if any impacts irreversible; impact amenable to management using standard mitigation measures; limited environmental or social analysis may be required to develop a ESEMP. Straightforward application of good practice may be sufficient without additional study.
High risk: Potential for significant negative impacts, possibly irreversible, ESEA including a full impact assessment may be required, followed by an effective safeguard management plan.

III. ESES Principle and Safeguard checklist

(Section III and IV should be retained in UNEP)

Precautionary Approach
The project will take precautionary measures even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically and there is risk of causing harm to the people or to the environment.
Human Rights Principle
The project will make an effort to include any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups; from the decision making process that may affect them.
The project will respond to any significant concerns or disputes raised during the stakeholder engagement process.
The project will make an effort to avoid inequitable or discriminatory negative impacts on the quality of and access to resources or basic services, on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups.[3]

Screening checklist	Y/N/ Maybe	Comment
Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, natural habitat and Sustainable Management of Living Resources		
Will the proposed project support directly or indirectly any activities that significantly convert or degrade biodiversity and habitat including modified habitat, natural habitat and critical natural habitat?	N	Not anticipated, on the contrary the project will result in legislation and policies to improve ecosystems.
Will the proposed project likely convert or degrade habitats that are legally protected?	N	Not anticipated, on the contrary, the project will help restore degraded habitats

[3] Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

Will the proposed project likely convert or degrade habitats that are officially proposed for protection? (e.g.; National Park, Nature Conservancy, Indigenous Community Conserved Area, (ICCA); etc.)	N	Not anticipated, on the contrary the project will help protect habitats officially proposed for protection.
Will the proposed project likely convert or degrade habitats that are identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation and biodiversity value?	N	Not anticipated, on the contrary, the project will help protect high conservation value habitats.
Will the proposed project likely convert or degrade habitats that are recognized- including by authoritative sources and /or the national and local government entity, as protected and conserved by traditional local communities?	N	Not anticipated, on the contrary the project will help protect these habitats
Will the proposed project approach possibly not be legally permitted or inconsistent with any officially recognized management plans for the area?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project activities result in soils deterioration and land degradation?	N	Not anticipated, on the contrary, the project will help restore degradation.
Will the proposed project interventions cause any changes to the quality or quantity of water in rivers, ponds, lakes or other wetlands?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project possibly introduce or utilize any invasive alien species of flora and fauna, whether accidental or intentional?	N	Not anticipated.
Safeguard Standard 2: Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes		
Will the proposed project likely result in the significant release of pollutants to air, water or soil?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely consume or cause significant consumption of water, energy or other resources through its own footprint or through the boundary of influence of the activity?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely cause significant generation of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions during and/or after the project?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely generate wastes, including hazardous waste that cannot be reused, recycled or disposed in an environmentally sound and safe manner?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project use, cause the use of, or manage the use of, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals, including pesticides?	N	Not anticipated.

Will the proposed project involve the manufacturing, trade, release and/or use of hazardous materials subject to international action bans or phase-outs, such as DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project require the procurement of chemical pesticides that is not a component of integrated pest management (IPM)[4] or integrated vector management (IVM)[5] approaches?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project require inclusion of chemical pesticides that are included in IPM or IVM but high in human toxicity?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project have difficulty in abiding to FAO's International Code of Conduct[6] in terms of handling, storage, application and disposal of pesticides?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project potentially expose the public to hazardous materials and substances and pose potentially serious risk to human health and the environment?	N	Not anticipated.
Safeguard Standard 3: Safety of Dams		
Will the proposed project involve constructing a new dam(s)?	N	No dams will be constructed under this project.
Will the proposed project involve rehabilitating an existing dam(s)?	N	No dams will be rehabilitated under this project.
Will the proposed project activities involve dam safety operations?	N	This project does not involve dam safety operations.
Safeguard Standard 4: Involuntary resettlement		
Will the proposed project likely involve full or partial physical displacement or relocation of people?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project involve involuntary restrictions on land use that deny a community the use of resources to which they have traditional or recognizable use rights?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely cause restrictions on access to land or use of resources that are sources of livelihood?	N	Not anticipated.

[4] "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) means the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/ipm/en/

[5] "IVM is a rational decision-making process for the optimal use of resources for vector control. The approach seeks to improve the efficacy, cost-effectiveness, ecological soundness and sustainability of disease-vector control. The ultimate goal is to prevent the transmission of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, Japanese encephalitis, leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis and Chagas disease." (http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/vector_ecology/ivm_concept/en/)

[6] Find more information from http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/CODE_2014Sep_ENG.pdf

Will the proposed project likely cause or involve temporary/permanent loss of land?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely cause or involve economic displacements affecting their crops, businesses, income generation sources and assets?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely cause or involve forced eviction?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely affect land tenure arrangements, including communal and/or customary/traditional land tenure patterns negatively?	N	Not anticipated.
Safeguard Standard 5: Indigenous peoples[7]		
Will indigenous peoples be present in the proposed project area or area of influence?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely affect livelihoods of indigenous peoples negatively through affecting the rights, lands and territories claimed by them?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the project negatively affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples defined by them?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the project potentially affect the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	N	Not anticipated.
Safeguard Standard 6: Labor and working conditions		
Will the proposed project involve the use of forced labor and child labor?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project cause the increase of local or regional un-employment?	N	Not anticipated.
Safeguard Standard 7: Cultural Heritage		
Will the proposed project potentially have negative impact on objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values and archeological sites that are internationally recognized or legally protected?	N	No negative impacts are anticipated on cultural heritage.
Will the proposed project rely on or profit from tangible cultural heritage (e.g., tourism)?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project involve land clearing or excavation with the possibility of encountering previously undetected tangible cultural heritage?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project involve in land clearing or excavation?	N	Not anticipated.
Safeguard Standard 8: Gender equity		

[7] Refer to the Toolkit for the application of the UNEP Indigenous Peoples Policy Guidance for further information.

Will the proposed project likely have inequitable negative impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project potentially discriminate against women or other groups based on gender, especially regarding participation in the design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project have impacts that could negatively affect women's and men's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?	N	Not anticipated.
Safeguard Standard 9: Economic Sustainability		
Will the proposed project likely bring immediate or short-term net gain to the local communities or countries at the risk of generating long-term economic burden (e.g., agriculture for food vs. biofuel; mangrove vs. commercial shrimp farm in terms of fishing, forest products and protection, etc.)?	N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project likely bring unequal economic benefits to a limited subset of the target group?	N	Not anticipated.

IV. Additional Safeguard Questions for Projects seeking GCF-funding

Community Health, Safety, and Security			
Will there be potential risks and negative impacts to the health and safety of the Affected Communities during the project life-cycle?		N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project involve design, construction, operation and decommissioning of the structural elements such as new buildings or structures?		N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project involve constructing new buildings or structures that will be accessed by public?		N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project possibly cause direct or indirect health-related risks and impacts to the Affected Communities due to the diminution or degradation of natural resources, and ecosystem services?		N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project activities potentially cause community exposure to health issues such as water-born, water-based, water-related, vector-borne diseases, and communicable diseases?		N	Not anticipated.

In case of an emergency event, will the project team, including partners, have the capacity to respond together with relevant local and national authorities?		N	Not anticipated.
Will the proposed project need to retain workers to provide security to safeguard its personnel and property?		N	Not anticipated.
Labor and Supply Chain			
Will UNEP or the implementing/executing partner(s) involve suppliers of goods and services who may have high risk of significant safety issues related to their own workers?		N	Not anticipated.

Annex N: Summary of reporting requirements and responsibilities

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Time Frame
Project inception Meeting	Project Steering Committee Project Manager National Project Teams UN Environment	Within 2 month of project start-up
Inception Report	Project Manager National Project Teams	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	Project Manager National Project Teams UN Environment	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually (within the PIR)
Regional project Steering committee meetings	Project Manager National Project Teams UN Environment Project Steering Committee	Yearly
National Project Steering Committee meetings	National Project Teams	Yearly
Reports of Regional and National Project Steering Committee meetings	Project Manager National Project Teams	1 month after steering committee meetings
Project Quarterly Report	Project Manager National Project Teams	Quarterly
Financial Report	Project Manager	Quarterly
Project Interim Report (PIR)	Project Manager National Project Teams	Yearly
Co-financing report	Project Manager National Project Teams	Yearly, within 1 month of the PIR reporting period
Project Final Report	Project Manager, National Project Teams	Within 2 months of the project completion date

ANNEX O: TORS FOR PSC AND KEY PERSONNEL

Terms of Reference for the Regional Steering Committee

A Regional Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to oversee the GEF project. The PSC will meet annually, or extraordinarily as may be warranted, to:

- Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination between all parties;
- Provide monitoring for project implementation;
- Review and adopt the annual workplans and budgets prepared by the Project Manager in conformity with the project objective and subject to the rules of GEF and UN Environment, and taking into account comments received on the annual work plan and budget;
- Review the six-month progress reports to be prepared by the Project Manager and oversee the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary.
- Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other initiatives being implemented regionally;
- Provide advice on policy and strategic issues to be taken into account during project implementation;

The delegations to the PSC will include:

- UN Environment task manager
- Representatives from the government agencies chairing the National Steering Committees (Rotating Chair)
- Representatives from World Resources Institute
- Representatives from National REC Caucasus offices
- An additional representative from regional NGOs or institutions

Terms of Reference for the National Steering Committees

A National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) will be established to oversee the GEF project in each country.

The NPSC will meet semi-annually, or extraordinarily as may be warranted, to:

- Provide overall strategic guidance and ensure coordination between all parties;
- Provide monitoring for project implementation;
- Review and adopt the annual work plans prepared by the Project Manager and the National Project Coordinator, in conformity with the project objective and subject to the rules of the GEF and UN Environment;
- Review the six-monthly progress reports to be prepared by the Project Manager and oversee the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary;
- Enhance the synergy between the GEF project and other initiatives bring implemented in the project area;
- Provide advice on policy

In each country Members are expected to include:

- Representative from the National Environment Ministry (Chair)
- Representatives from REC Caucasus national office
- Representatives from relevant government agencies
- Representatives from relevant municipal administrations
- Representatives from NGOs/CSOs
- National Project Coordinator

Terms of Reference for the Project Key Personnel

Terms of Reference

Job Description

Project: Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region

Post title: Project Manager

Duration: 36 months

Date Required: 1st month

Duty station: WRI Global Office (Washington DC, USA)

Counterpart: NA

Background:
Maintaining and expanding forest cover in the South Caucasus countries are critical aspects in supporting human livelihoods, economies, carbon storage, water management and storehouses of biodiversity. The forests of the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) lie within the Caucasus Eco-region (see Figure 1), one of the Global 200 eco-regions. Extending to about three million hectares - forests are the most important biome for biodiversity conservation in the South Caucasus, harboring many endemic and relic species of woody plants and herbs, and providing habitats for globally rare and endangered animals. In addition to their high value to wildlife conservation, the forests of the South Caucasus make an important contribution to national sustainable development goals.

Forests provide sustenance and livelihoods for rural people and essential environmental services such as preventing avalanches and soil erosion and regulating the quantity and quality of water supplies. These values are threatened by unsustainable management and exploitation, which if continued will lead to irreversible loss of biodiversity and of the products and services on which many people depend. Despite these extraordinary, and in many cases, irreplaceable values, forest degradation continues. The South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, have experienced substantial levels of deforestation and degradation in the last 20 years, resulting in soil degradation, landslides and other natural hazards. Forest and land degradation present a few problems and challenges in each of the South Caucasus countries, with significant and direct impacts on rural poverty, household food security, biodiversity, resilience to extreme weather, quantities of carbon sequestered and land use values.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), along with national partners in the South Caucasus countries, aim to addresses forest management transparency and helps progress restoration commitments by introducing and implementing Global Forest Watch (GFW) and Restoration Opportunity Mapping in the region. The project's objective is to address barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover be restoring forests and utilizing climate smart agriculture.

The project will mobilize and support governmental counterparts and a broad range of national stakeholders to provide input on the design of a user-friendly interface which matches their daily needs for information. The outcomes of the project will implement a forest and land management tool that can support the development and implementation of collaborative cross-sectoral integrated land use

management plans, at the regional, national and sub-national scale. Furthermore, by applying approaches and tools that have been developed as elements of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) for analysis of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) opportunities and implementation strategies in the South Caucasus countries, the project will contribute to the improved understanding of the socio-economic benefits of FLR.

The overall objective of the Project Manager is to organize day-to-day operational and administrative aspects of the project management within the project area and to ensure the achievement of project outcomes, the delivery of project outputs and the realization of project activities and expenditures in accordance with the annual work plans and budgets approved by the National Project Steering Committees.

The Executing Agency in collaboration with the Implementing Agency will appoint a suitably qualified person to provide primary support for the implementation of the UN Environment/GEF supported project "Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region." The appointee will be based at the Headquarters of the executing agency, World Resources Institute, in Washington, D.C.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables:
The Project Manager will:

- Provide technical support and administrative leadership to national project teams in Armenia, Azerbaijan & Georgia;
- In consultation with national partners, prepare national work plan and annual updates, including national budget allocations;
- Facilitate development and signing of the Letters of Agreement (LoA) with appropriate national partners to undertake activities specified in the work plan;
- Work in collaboration with different project partners from relevant national institutions for the implementation of national project components;
- Ensure efficient and effective communication between and amongst activities at national and regional levels;
- Maintain close communication with national project teams, particularly national coordinators;
- Participate in the steering committee meetings where the work plan and budget of national project components will be agreed by project partners;
- Provide support in coordinating policy related to project implementation at national level;
- Prepare project status reports for and ensure that project is executed in accordance with relevant UN Environment/GEF and in-country requirements;
- Monitor the financial and budgetary status of the project;
- Be responsible for approving and endorsing all financial documentation of the national components of the project;
- Ensure the delivery of in-kind and in-cash contributions for implementation of project components;
- Assist consultants in their work on project the implementation of project activities;
- Approve terms of reference and conduct hiring procedures for national positions;
- Oversee public relations for the project;
- Maintain good communication with the other relevant projects as well as with project stakeholders;
- Work to ensure political and policy level buy-in.

Deliverables:

- Project management arrangements are in place and fully functional;

- Scheduled project activities completed successfully;
- Project component implementation well-coordinated;
- Project implementation maximizes synergies with other relevant projects in the country;

Reporting structure:
Reports to the WRI "Global Forest Watch" Director and to the UN Environment Task Manager

Qualifications:
The Project Manager will have successfully completed postgraduate university studies in subjects related to sustainable development, environment or forestry and at least 5 years of experience in environmental project management of which at least 3 years must have been as a lead project manager for international donor-funded projects. Significant experience related to the scope of the project in creating a national forest-related atlas or interactive portal is desirable, as well as experience in environmental governance and capacity building issues. The Project Manager competencies include a strong capacity to plan, budget coordinate and report on all technical and financial aspects of project management. Ideally s/he should be familiar with national financial management procedures and/or GEF project management procedures. Strong interpersonal communication and management skills, high flexibility and capacity to work under pressure are required.

Languages: Fluency in English (writing, reading, speaking) is necessary.

Job Description

Project: Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region

Post title: Grants and Finance Coordinator

Duration: 36 months

Date Required: 1st month

Duty station: WRI Global Office (Washington DC, USA)

Counterpart: NA

Background:
Maintaining and expanding forest cover in the South Caucasus countries are critical aspects in supporting human livelihoods, economies, carbon storage, water management and storehouses of biodiversity. The forests of the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) lie within the Caucasus Eco-region (see Figure 1), one of the Global 200 eco-regions. Extending to about three million hectares - forests are the most important biome for biodiversity conservation in the South Caucasus, harboring many endemic and relic species of woody plants and herbs, and providing habitats for globally rare and endangered animals. In addition to their high value to wildlife conservation, the forests of the South Caucasus make an important contribution to national sustainable development goals.

Forests provide sustenance and livelihoods for rural people and essential environmental services such as preventing avalanches and soil erosion and regulating the quantity and quality of water supplies. These values are threatened by unsustainable management and exploitation, which if continued will lead to irreversible loss of biodiversity and of the products and services on which many people depend. Despite these extraordinary, and in many cases, irreplaceable values, forest degradation continues. The South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, have experienced substantial levels of deforestation and degradation in the last 20 years, resulting in soil degradation, landslides and other natural hazards. Forest and land degradation present a few problems and challenges in each of the South Caucasus countries, with significant and direct impacts on rural poverty, household food security, biodiversity, resilience to extreme weather, quantities of carbon sequestered and land use values.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), along with national partners in the South Caucasus countries, aim to addresses forest management transparency and helps progress restoration commitments by introducing and implementing Global Forest Watch (GFW) and Restoration Opportunity Mapping in the region. The project's objective is to address barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover be restoring forests and utilizing climate smart agriculture.

The overall objective of the Grants and Finance Coordinator is to be responsible for providing accounting oversight on all project expenditures in accordance with the annual work plans and budgets approved by the Project Steering Committee. S/he will also be responsible for reviewing, issuing and executing any contracts and subgrants necessary for project implementation.

The Executing Agency will appoint a suitably qualified person to provide support to the execution of the project. The appointee will be based at the Headquarters of the executing agency, World Resources Institute, in Washington, D.C.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables:
The Grants and Finance Coordinator will:

- Provide support to the PM in the financial and administrative management of the project;
- Assist in project administration by assembling and preparing necessary documentation; helping to prepare letters of agreement for research and consultancy services; monitor budgets and liaise with accounting staff about payments and financial reports; interact with external agencies on non-technical and administrative matters;
- Assist in recording and monitoring project expenditures and funds availability in close consultation with the PM;
- Prepare quarterly financial reports and reimbursement claims for submission to the Executing Agency;
- Undertake office fixed assets inventory and its reporting to the Executing Agency;
- Format reports, proceedings and other relevant documents;
- Assist PM in organizing and conducting PSC Meetings and other workshops as needed;
- Assist PM assembling necessary information to prepare reports;

Deliverables:

- Annual operational plan including budget prepared and submitted in timely manner;
- Quarterly and annual financial reports prepared and submitted in timely manner;
- UN Environment/GEF norms for monitoring and evaluation of project performance, output delivery and impact applied;

Reporting structure:
The Grants and Finance Coordinator will report to the Global Forest Watch Finance Manager at WRI within the Operations team. S/he will also report to and work closely with the Project Manager for this project.

Qualifications:
The Grants and Finance Coordinator will have a degree from a qualified university in finance, accounting, international development, or similar. S/he will need minimum of two years of professional experience relevant in international or government organizations ad a proven ability to manage complex budgets. S/he will have experience in working and liaising with multiple partners in an international environment

Languages: Fluency in English (writing, reading, speaking) is necessary.

Job Description

Project: Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region

Post title: Technical Support Officer

Duration: 36 months

Date Required: 1st month

Duty station: WRI Global Office, Washington, DC, USA

Counterpart: NA

Background:
Maintaining and expanding forest cover in the South Caucasus countries are critical aspects in supporting human livelihoods, economies, carbon storage, water management and storehouses of biodiversity. The forests of the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) lie within the Caucasus Eco-region (see Figure 1), one of the Global 200 eco-regions. Extending to about three million hectares - forests are the most important biome for biodiversity conservation in the South Caucasus, harboring many endemic and relic species of woody plants and herbs, and providing habitats for globally rare and endangered animals. In addition to their high value to wildlife conservation, the forests of the South Caucasus make an important contribution to national sustainable development goals.

Forests provide sustenance and livelihoods for rural people and essential environmental services such as preventing avalanches and soil erosion and regulating the quantity and quality of water supplies. These values are threatened by unsustainable management and exploitation, which if continued will lead to irreversible loss of biodiversity and of the products and services on which many people depend. Despite these extraordinary, and in many cases, irreplaceable values, forest degradation continues. The South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, have experienced substantial levels of deforestation and degradation in the last 20 years, resulting in soil degradation, landslides and other natural hazards. Forest and land degradation present a few problems and challenges in each of the South Caucasus countries, with significant and direct impacts on rural poverty, household food security, biodiversity, resilience to extreme weather, quantities of carbon sequestered and land use values.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), along with national partners in the South Caucasus countries, aim to addresses forest management transparency and helps progress restoration commitments by introducing and implementing Global Forest Watch (GFW) and Restoration Opportunity Mapping in the region. The project's objective is to address barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover be restoring forests and utilizing climate smart agriculture.

The overall objective of the Technical Support Officer is to be responsible for providing technical oversight on all technical aspects including GIS expertise, data processing and management, and platform development. S/he will work closely with the National Technical Assistants and will perform duties in accordance to the work plans approved by the PSC and national steering committees.

The Executing Agency will appoint a suitably qualified person to provide support to the execution of the project. The appointee will be based at the Headquarters of the executing agency, World Resources Institute, in Washington, D.C.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables:
The Technical Support Officer will:

- Lead the implementation of all technical aspects of project activities;
- Negotiate, and manage technical contracts with developers;
- Liaise with developers to ensure upstream feedback from users;
- Work closely with and advise the National Technical Assistants in completion of project activities;
- Perform spatial analyses;
- Create visually appealing and high quality maps and posters;
- Provide capacity building and training to National Technical Assistants and users;
- Facilitate communication and feedback of product development;
- Contribute to conducting research, writing web articles (e.g., blogs), and other publications related to the project;
- Advise and support enhancing the compatibility of data and metadata structures with related systems, standards or regulations;
- Provide training for partners in GIS, remote sensing, management of forest databases, as well as in the application of forest data to key forest management processes;
- Promote the exchange of geographical data and metadata between the members of the team, and those of other related projects and institutions;
- Provide support in developing strategies for acquiring new datasets relevant to GFW, in the context of identified thematic and geographic research priorities;
- Collection, compilation, or integration of external cartographic data as required for analysis or reporting needs;
- Prepare and analyze spatial data, including deriving spatial statistics by using geoprocessing tools (e.g. Model Builder and other analytical tools using ArcGIS and Python);
- Respond to technical enquiries'
- Support countries in data management and development of the atlases.

Deliverables:
- Completed technical trainings for national users;
- National atlases built and customized;

Reporting structure:
The Technical Support Officer will report to the Global Forest Watch Forest Atlas team at WRI within the. S/he will also report to and work closely with the Project Manager for this project.

Qualifications:
The Technical Support Officer will have a degree from an accredited university in environmental management, forestry, GIS, Geography or similar. S/he will have a minimum of three years of professional experience relevant in GIS and product management, with preference for experience working with international or government organizations. S/he must have strong analytical skills, with knowledge of GIS software. Some knowledge of forest issues is preferred. S/he will have experience in working and liaising with multiple partners in an international environment

Languages: Fluency in English (writing, reading, speaking) is necessary. Some knowledge of Russian preferred.

Job Description

Project: Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region

Post title: National Project Coordinator x3

Duration: 36 months

Date Required: 1st month

Duty station: RECC Caucasus National Offices (Yerevan, Armenia; Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi, Georgia)

Counterpart: NA

Background:
Maintaining and expanding forest cover in the South Caucasus countries are critical aspects in supporting human livelihoods, economies, carbon storage, water management and storehouses of biodiversity. The forests of the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) lie within the Caucasus Eco-region (see Figure 1), one of the Global 200 eco-regions. Extending to about three million hectares - forests are the most important biome for biodiversity conservation in the South Caucasus, harboring many endemic and relic species of woody plants and herbs, and providing habitats for globally rare and endangered animals. In addition to their high value to wildlife conservation, the forests of the South Caucasus make an important contribution to national sustainable development goals.

Forests provide sustenance and livelihoods for rural people and essential environmental services such as preventing avalanches and soil erosion and regulating the quantity and quality of water supplies. These values are threatened by unsustainable management and exploitation, which if continued will lead to irreversible loss of biodiversity and of the products and services on which many people depend. Despite these extraordinary, and in many cases, irreplaceable values, forest degradation continues. The South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, have experienced substantial levels of deforestation and degradation in the last 20 years, resulting in soil degradation, landslides and other natural hazards. Forest and land degradation present a few problems and challenges in each of the South Caucasus countries, with significant and direct impacts on rural poverty, household food security, biodiversity, resilience to extreme weather, quantities of carbon sequestered and land use values.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), along with national partners in the South Caucasus countries, aim to addresses forest management transparency and helps progress restoration commitments by introducing and implementing Global Forest Watch (GFW) and Restoration Opportunity Mapping in the region. The project's objective is to address barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover be restoring forests and utilizing climate smart agriculture.

The overall objective of the National Coordinator is to

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables:
The National Project Coordinator will:

- Lead the implementation of project activities nationally, including the production of technical, financial, and budgetary reports, development contracts and personnel management, and relationships with partners;
- Lead, organize, and participate in national steering committee meetings;
- Assist in project administration by assembling and preparing necessary documentation; helping to prepare letters of agreement for research and consultancy services; monitor budgets and liaise with accounting staff about payments and financial reports; interact with external agencies on non-technical and administrative matters;
- Facilitate communication and linkages of the project at the national and regional level;
- Ensure collaboration with partners, including the government, NGOs and the private sector;
- Organize seminars and meetings with partners around the GFW activities and report on decisions and next steps of meetings;
- Contribute to conducting research, writing web articles (e.g., blogs), and other publications related to the project;
- Be accountable at national level for the achievement of project objectives, results, and all fundamental aspects of project execution;
- Be accountable to the Project Manager for the achievement of project objectives, results and all technical aspects of national component execution;
- Maintain regular communication with the Project Manager;
- Supervise the work of the national Technical project support staff;
- Supervise the work of project partners.

Deliverables:

- Scheduled project activities completed successfully;
- National project component implementation well-coordinated;
- Project implementation maximizes synergies with other relevant projects in the country.

Reporting structure:
The National Project Coordinator will report to the Project Manager and to the REC Caucasus CEO at the national level.

Qualifications:
The National Project Coordinator will have a degree from an accredited university in environmental management, forestry, international development or similar. A minimum of four years of professional experience relevant in international or government organizations is required. S/he will be knowledgeable about environmental and forestry issues on a national and regional scale and will have experience working with national Governments. S/he will have experience in working and liaising with multiple partners nationally and in an international environment.

Languages: Fluency in Armenian, Azerbaijani and/or Georgian (writing, reading, speaking) is necessary, depending on country of hire. Fluency in English (writing, reading, speaking) is also necessary.

Job Description

Project: Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region

Post title: National Technical Assistant x 3

Duration: 36 months

Date Required: 1st month

Duty station: RECC Caucasus National Offices (Yerevan, Armenia; Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi, Georgia)

Counterpart: NA

Background:
Maintaining and expanding forest cover in the South Caucasus countries are critical aspects in supporting human livelihoods, economies, carbon storage, water management and storehouses of biodiversity. The forests of the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) lie within the Caucasus Eco-region (see Figure 1), one of the Global 200 eco-regions. Extending to about three million hectares - forests are the most important biome for biodiversity conservation in the South Caucasus, harboring many endemic and relic species of woody plants and herbs, and providing habitats for globally rare and endangered animals. In addition to their high value to wildlife conservation, the forests of the South Caucasus make an important contribution to national sustainable development goals.

Forests provide sustenance and livelihoods for rural people and essential environmental services such as preventing avalanches and soil erosion and regulating the quantity and quality of water supplies. These values are threatened by unsustainable management and exploitation, which if continued will lead to irreversible loss of biodiversity and of the products and services on which many people depend. Despite these extraordinary, and in many cases, irreplaceable values, forest degradation continues. The South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, have experienced substantial levels of deforestation and degradation in the last 20 years, resulting in soil degradation, landslides and other natural hazards. Forest and land degradation present a few problems and challenges in each of the South Caucasus countries, with significant and direct impacts on rural poverty, household food security, biodiversity, resilience to extreme weather, quantities of carbon sequestered and land use values.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), along with national partners in the South Caucasus countries, aim to addresses forest management transparency and helps progress restoration commitments by introducing and implementing Global Forest Watch (GFW) and Restoration Opportunity Mapping in the region. The project's objective is to address barriers that prevent up-to-date available information and to help facilitate commitments to restoration by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses, and enable legal and political conditions across sectors to increase tree cover be restoring forests and utilizing climate smart agriculture.

The overall objective of the National Technical Assistant is to lead the development of national atlases, developing data management and diffusion protocols, compiling data content, conducting research and analysis related to forests and building the capacity of WRI's partners nationally in the use of GFW tools to apply information to the management of forest resources.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables:
The National Technical Assistant will:

- Lead development and implementation of technical aspects of activities nationally;
- Lead the conceptualization, development and implementation of GIS-based tools and analytical methods in support project partners;
- Support communicating about forest data and analysis to technical and non-technical audiences at national and international levels (e.g. by producing maps, graphs, figures, contributing to writing blog posts and articles);
- Respond to technical inquiries related to project work;
- Represent GFW and give presentations at conferences and workshops, when necessary;
- Provide technical assistance to relevant processes such as land use planning, monitoring of activities, and other relevant areas of natural resource management nationally;
- Advise and support enhancing the compatibility of data and metadata structures with related systems, standards or regulations;
- Provide training for partners in GIS, remote sensing, management of forest databases, as well as in the application of forest data to key forest management processes;
- Promote the exchange of geographical data and metadata between the members of the team, and those of other related projects and institutions;
- Provide support in developing strategies for acquiring new datasets relevant to GFW, in the context of identified thematic and geographic research priorities;
- Collection, compilation, or integration of external cartographic data as required for analysis or reporting needs;
- Prepare and analyze spatial data, including deriving spatial statistics by using geoprocessing tools (e.g. Model Builder and other analytical tools using ArcGIS and Python);
- Project management and support of other tasks outside of GIS when necessary
- Create visually appealing and high quality maps and posters;

Deliverables:

- Completed technical trainings for national users;
- National atlases built and customized;
- Database built with all relevant data, including metadata.

Reporting structure:
The National Technical Assistant will report to the Technical Support Officer and to the National Project Coordinator.

Qualifications:
The National Technical Assistant will have a degree from accredited university in Geography, GIS, Information Systems, Natural Resource Management or other related field; a minimum of two years of professional experience relevant in GIS and data management, proficiency with GIS software; strong analytical skills; deep understanding and experience of the forest sector; preference for experience working with international or government organizations.

Languages: Fluency in Armenian, Azerbaijani and/or Georgian (writing, reading, speaking) is necessary, depending on country of hire. Proficiency in English (writing, reading, speaking) is also necessary.

ANNEX P: PROCUREMENT PLAN TEMPLATE

UNEP/GEF Project Procurement Plan

Project title and number

UNEP Budget Line		List of Goods and Services required	Budget	Year {Note 1}	Brief description of anticipated procurement process {Note 2}
1200	Consultants				
1201					
1202					
1203					
2100	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for cooperating agencies)				
2101					
2102					
2103					
2200	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for supporting organizations)		567,098 USD		
2201	RECC Armenia	Convene stakeholders and decision-makers for mapping, analysis, and portal creation in technical working groups and steering committees. Have GIS technical experts compile data and create database. Create restoration opportunity map. Develop feasibility plan of priority landscape. Perform capacity building activities.	245,638 USD	Years 1, 2 & 3	Decided partner from PPG phase. Per WRI's procurement requirements, due diligence process conducted during PPG phase determined that partner is suitable to work with WRI.
2202	RECC Azerbaijan	Convene stakeholders and decision-makers for mapping, analysis, and portal creation in technical working groups and steering committees. Have GIS technical experts compile data and create database. Create restoration opportunity map. Develop feasibility plan of priority landscape. Perform capacity building activities.	261,221 USD	Years 1, 2 & 3	Decided partner from PPG phase. Per WRI's procurement requirements, due diligence process conducted during PPG phase determined that partner is suitable to work with WRI.
2203	RECC Georgia	Convene stakeholders and decision-makers for mapping, analysis, and portal creation in technical	60,240 USD	Years 1, 2 & 3	Decided partner from PPG phase. Per WRI's procurement requirements, due diligence process

		working groups and steering commitees. Have GIS technical experts compile data and create database. Create restoration opportunity map.			conducted during PPG phase determined that partner is suitable to work with WRI.
2300	Sub-contracts (for commercial purposes)				
2301					
2302					
2303					
4200	Non-expendable equipment		31,548 USD		
4201	Laptops and GIS Equipment	15,774 each for Azerbaijan and Armenia as part of above sub-contracts. Laptops and other GIS equipment required for staff and GIS technical expert who will be hired in each country.	31,548 USD	Years 1 & 2	Will review vendors' prices and technical specifications for all necessary equipment. Will balance cost with quality to ensure all procurements are cost effective but can perform required GIS analysis.
4202					
4203					
	GRAND TOTAL		**567,098 USD**		Please see note that equipment is part of sub-contract to supporting organizations.

Note 1 - Year when goods/services will be procured

Note 2 - Based on your organisation's procurement procedures, and in compliance with UNEP rules and procedures, briefly explain how the service provider/consultant/vendor will be selected

ANNEX Q: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANAS	National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan
BMZ	The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CENN	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECF	Ecoregional Corridor Fund
ECP	Eco-Regional Conservation Plan
EPR	Environmental Performance Review
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDD	Forestry Development Department of the Azerbaijan Republic
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FME	Forest Management Enterprise
FSRI	Forestry Scientific-Research Institute
GEB	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEFTF	Global Environmental Facility Trust Fund
GFW	Global Forest Watch
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geospatial Information System
GIZ	German Development Agency for International Cooperation
IBIS	Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus Programme
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KfW	Credit Institute for Reconstruction (German State Development Bank)
MENR	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic
MEPA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
MNP	Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia
NACRES	Centre for Biodiversity Research & Conservation
NAP	National Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCF	Nordic Climate Facility
NEAP	National Environmental Action Programme
NFA	National Forest Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OJSC	Open Joint-Stock Company
PIF	Project Identification Form
PMC	Project Management Cost

PPG	Project Preparation Grant
REC Caucasus	Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SLMIP	Sustainable Land Management for Increased Productivity in Armenia
SNCO	State Non-Commercial Organization
TJS III	the Transboundary Joint Secretariat for the South Caucasus
UN Environment	United Nations Environment
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNREDD	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԲՆԱՊԱՀՊԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ
MINISTRY OF NATURE PROTECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MINISTER
МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОХРАНЫ ПРИРОДЫ РЕСПУБЛИКИ АРМЕНИЯ
МИНИСТР

0010, ք. Երևան, Հանրապետության հր. Կառավարական 3-րդ տուն
3 Government Bldg, Republic Sq, Yerevan, 0010, Armenia
0010, Армения, г.Ереван, Дом правительства, здание N3
էլ.փոստ /E-mail/ эл.почта: min_ecology@mnp.am
Web page: www.mnp.am
(374 11) 818 501
(374 11) 818 506

№ 1/08.2/11099
«11» «05» 2019թ.

Ms. Kelly West
Senior Programme Manager
Global Environment Facility Coordinator, Corporate Services Division
UN Environment

Subject: Co-financing for GEF/UN Environment Project 01660: "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region"

Dear Ms. West,

On behalf of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, I am pleased to confirm support for the GEF Project "UNEP-GEF Project 01660: Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region" which is aimed to empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity.

We anticipate that our support to the project over the 3-year project duration will amount to 1 million US dollars in kind.

On behalf of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, we look forward to working with and contributing to the GEF/UN Environment project to provide reliable and up-to-date data on the extent and state of forests in the Caucasus region.

Sincerely,

Erik Grigoryan

GEF Political and Operational Focal Point

CC: GEF Operational Focal Point
Ersin Esen, UN Environment/GEF Task Manager, ersin.esen@un.org

ICD
R. Amirkhanyan
011 818 508

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
EKOLOGİYA VƏ TƏBİİ SƏRVƏTLƏR NAZİRLİYİ

MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Az1073 Azərbaycan, Bakı, B.Ağayev Küç. 100A
Tel: (99412) 492-59-07, Faks (99412) 492-59-07

B.Aghayev Str: 100A, Az1073 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel: (99412) 492-59-07, Fax (99412) 492-59-07

№ 4/1369-02-08 «04» 05 2019 .il

Ms. Brennan Van Dyke
UNEP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director
UN Environment

RE: Co-financing for GEF/UN Environment Project 01660: "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region"

Dear Ms. Van Dyke,

On behalf of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, I am pleased to confirm support for the GEF Project "UNEP-GEF Project 01660: Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region" which is aimed to empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity.

We anticipate that our support to the project over the 3-year project duration will amount to USD 1 mln in-kind (2019-2021).

On behalf of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, we look forward to working with and contributing to the GEF/UN Environment project to provide reliable and up-to-date data on the extent and state of forests in Azerbaijan.

Sincerely yours,

Firdovsi Aliyev
Deputy minister

CC: GEF Operational Focal Point
Ersin Esen, UNEnvironment/GEF Task Manager, ersin.esen@un.org

საქართველო
GEORGIA

გარემოს დაცვისა და
სოფლის მეურნეობის
სამინისტრო

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE
OF GEORGIA

N 2515/01
11/03/2019

2515-01-2-201903111026

To: **Ms. Brennan Van Dyke**
UNEP-GEF Executive Coordinator and Director
United Nations Environment Programme

Subject: Contribution to the project "Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region"

Dear Ms. Van Dyke,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, I am pleased to confirm a support for the project "Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region". The project aims at empowering decision-makers in government and civil society sector with respective technology and information to restore and conserve biodiversity of forests in Georgia. Therefore, the project proposal is in accordance with the national priorities and the commitments made by the Government of Georgia under the relevant international environmental conventions.

Thus, I would like to confirm that the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia will support to the mentioned project, with an in-kind contribution of USD 160,000.00 during the project implementation period (2019 – 2021).

Yours Sincerely,

Iuri Nozadze
Deputy Minister

0159, საქართველო, თბილისი, მარშალ გელოვანის გამზ. №6. ტელ./ფაქსი: +(995 32) 2378013
www.moa.gov.ge
6, Marshal Gelovani ave., Tbilisi 0159, Georgia, Phone/Fax:+(995 32) 2378013

QUALIFIED ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR THE CAUCASUS
კავკასიის რეგიონული გარემოსდაცვითი ცენტრი

March 7, 2019

Ms. Kelly West
Senior Programme Manager
Global Environment Facility Coordinator, Corporate Services Division
UN Environment

RE: Co-financing for GEF/UN Environment Project 01660: "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region"

Dear Ms. West,

On behalf of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) offices, I am pleased to confirm support for the GEF Project "UNEP-GEF Project 01660: Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region" which is aimed to empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity.

We anticipate that our support to the project over the 3-year project duration will amount to $300,000**.**

On behalf of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) offices, we look forward to working with and contributing to the GEF/UN Environment project to provide reliable and up-to-date data on the extent and state of forests in the Caucasus region.

Sincerely yours,

Sophiko Akhobadze
Director

CC: GEF Operational Focal Point
Ersin Esen, UN Environment/GEF Task Manager, ersin.esen@un.org

Headquarters
13 Badri Shoshitaishvili street
0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: +995 32 2250775
E-Mail: info@rec-caucasus.org
www.rec-caucasus.org

Country Office in Armenia
7, Aygestan Street, building N 2,
0010, Yerevan, Armenia,
Tel/Fax: +374 11 575148
+374 11 574743

Country Office in Azerbaijan
100a, B. Agayev Street
1073 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel:+ 994 12 4924173

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

GLOBAL FOREST WATCH

10 G Street, NE Suite 800 Washington, DC 20002 USA (PH) +1 (202) 729-7600 (FAX) +1 (202) 729-7610 www.WRI.org

February 26, 2019

Co-Financing for "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region"

Kelly West
UN Environment/GEF Coordinator
Portfolio Manager, Corporate Services Division
UN Environment

Kelly.west@un.org

Dear Ms. West,

On behalf of the **World Resources Institute**, I am pleased to confirm support for the UN Environment-GEF project "Upscaling of Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region," the goal of which is to empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyses.

We anticipate that our co-financing will amount to over USD 2 million in cash, based on grants from various sources, including the Governments of Norway, the United States, and the United Kingdom. These funds will contribute to both components of the project. Funding for technical and support staff and web development will support the catalyzation of better land-use decision making through access to reliable up-to-date information (Component 1). Funding for technical and support staff will also support increased capacity of key actors and institutions to apply up-to-date information to land-use decisions (Component 2).

Sincerely Yours,

Steve Barker
Vice President and Chief Financial and Operations Officer, World Resources Institute

Copy To:
Ersin Esen, UN Environment/GEF Task Manager, Ersin.Esen@unep.org

IMPACT: Empower decision-makers in government and civil society with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity

OUTCOME: Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation.

Assumptions: tools and resources enable impactful applications of data

OUTPUTS

1: Stakeholder mapping and analysis
2: Creation of an interactive forest and land use portal
3: A Restoration Opportunity Map that quantifies the area of opportunity
4: Development of a draft policy instrument for forest restoration and land-use planning

Intermediate State

Actors use independent information to promote **accountability** for performance at the national level

Actors have tools and capacity to provide **transparency** about national performance at the global level

OUTCOME: Stakeholders capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs

Assumption: Working groups inform data, tools, and outreach strategies

OUTPUTS

1: Creation of multi-sectoral working groups to drive the direction of the project
2: Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organizations

Actor Pathways

Forest ministries use tools to support forest management, inform land use planning, and facilitate reporting on international commitments.

Companies disclose documents on tools to position themselves as transparent and responsible actors in the marketplace and use tool to monitor concessions.

Local civil society use tools to monitor forest management activities and engage effectively in policy and decision-making processes.

Law enforcement uses data and documentation from tools to monitor compliance of forest operators.